PRC finds Kho guilty of immorality
METRO/ A21

SC allows gov't takeover of Diwalwal
ACROSS/ A16

Miss Brazil wins Miss Earth title
NEWS / A7

Manny denies Krista affair, offers apology

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FINALLY, A DENIAL FROM THE POUND-for-pound king.

After weeks of speculation, boxing icon Manny Pacquiao surgeriously denied his alleged illicit affair with actress Krista Ranillo. He also apologized to Krista's family for the intrigues caused by their purported rain-romance.

In an interview aired on GMA-7 on Saturday night and on the news program "24 Oras" yesterday, Pacquiao said in Filipino: "We're just good friends... I didn't mean to

MANNY, A2

Climate change worsens far faster than predicted

WASHINGTON—SINCE THE 1997 INTERnational accord to fight global warming, climate change has worsened and accelerated—beyond some of the grimmest of warnings made back then.

As the world has talked for a dozen years about what to do next, new ship passages opened through the once frozen summer sea ice of the Arctic. Is

CLIMATE CHANGE, A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, November 24, 2009 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 349 P18

KILLING FIELDS Maguindanao is where as many as 36 people, including journalists, have been abducted and are feared killed in the course of a long-running political feud. In file photo at right, armored personnel carriers bearing soldiers engaged in offensives against Moro rebels lumber down a highway in Datu Piang town on May 26. AFP

21 killed in Maguindanao

13 journalists feared dead in massacre

THE FIRST POLITICAL MASS murder of the election season was described as so gruesome and unparalleled in recent years that an aide of President Macapagal-Arroyo said it required nothing less than the declaration of a state of emergency to avoid more bloodletting.

At least 21 people, including 13 women, lay dead—some of them beheaded and others raped and mutilated, authorities said.

A search was mounted for several dozens others reportedly taken hostage and feared killed in Maguindanao province.

13 KILLED, A6

Media groups demand justice for colleagues

PHILIPPINE PRESS ORGANIZATIONS demanded justice after reporters were among 21 people murdered yesterday in what could probably the biggest group of journalists killed in one single incident.

Local authorities said at least 13 media people were killed in the massacre in Maguindanao.

"It is incumbent on government to give swift justice to the victims. This is a direct challenge to our efforts to strengthen democracy in this country,"

MEDIA, A6

ASHES TO ASHES A woman makes a prayer offering to the spirits of Japanese soldiers on Sunday in Barusan, Ifugao. The bones, collected by Filipino Santos Bayocca and Japanese Kazuya Tanaka with the help of Japanese NGO Kuntai, were brought to Baguio from all over the country for cremation. The ashes will be distributed to family members in Japan. ALI VITO

Peñaflorida's int'l triumph indictment of RP failure

THE INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM achieved by Efren Peñaflorida, who was named CNN Hero of the Year for his "pushcart classroom" in the Philippines, is an indictment of the government's failure to provide basic education to the poor, several lawmakers and a teacher's group said yesterday.

But Malacañang is trying to make up for any shortcomings by announcing that it would confer on Peñaflorida one of the Philippine government's highest honors given to a civilian.

The Palace is also preparing a lavish welcome for Peñaflorida.

Nueva Ecija Rep. Edwardo Neonito Josue said the international recognition given to Peñaflorida's work underscored the "sorry state of education (in the country)."

"In my book, Efren is the true hero and worthy of emulation by all. I believe he is better than Pacman (Manny Pacquiao) because he does not need to break a face just to be a hero," Josue said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said he would not be surprised "if Glo-

PEÑAFLORIDA, A3

Bicol film on hunger draws 12M hits

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—DRAWING MORE THAN 12 million viewers as of Saturday, a short film about hunger shot here by a Shotokan filmmaker has pricked the conscience of people around the world, who said it made them cry.

"Chicken a la Carte" by Ferdinand Dimadura, shot in 2005, beat some 3,400 entries when it won the 56th Berlin Film Festival award for short films in 2006. Its biting commentary has drawn viewers to the website www.culturemashup.com and YouTube.

The film is "about hunger and poverty brought about by globalization," the synopsis says.

"There are 103,000 people dying every day due to hunger and malnutrition. This short film shows a forgotten portion of society… What is inspiring is the hope and spirituality that never left this people."

BICOL, A8

Even macho mayor appalled by Comelec stand on Ang Ladlad

By Jeffrey M. Tupas in Davao City and Philip C. Tubeza in Manila

DAVAO CITY—MACHO MAYOR Rodrigo Duterte is appalled that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) has rejected the application of gay rights group Ang Ladlad to participate in Philippine politics through the party-list system.

"Bigotry of the highest order" was how Duterte, this city's ultimate symbol of manliness, described the justifi-

DUTERTE, A11

Kapatiran's JC files CoC for presidency

By Philip C. Tubeza and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE FIRST OF A NUMBER OF "SERIOUS" aspirants to the presidency has formally declared his intention to seek the No. 1 post with the blessings of Catholic bishops.

Ang Kapatiran standard-bearer John Carlos "JC" de los Reyes, his running mate Dominador Chipeco Jr., and the party's seven senatorial candidates filed their certificates of candidacy (CoC) yesterday afternoon at the main office of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in Intramuros, Manila.

"The Filipino people are fed up with traditional politics and we're the only game in town when it comes to alternative politics. We have a good chance of winning," De los Reyes, who turns 40 on Feb. 14, told reporters.

He echoed Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales' lament that even if the May 2010 elections were fully automated, the Philippine political system would remain rotten if Fi-

KAPATIRAN'S JC, A11

ANG KAPATIRAN'S JC de los Reyes displays his certificate of candidacy for president. MIKE ALQUINTO

Street kid going to college from pushcart school

By Edicon C. Tandoc Jr.

STRICT WITH ASSIGNMENTS BUT always soft-spoken, Efren Peñaflorida is an "excellent" pushcart classroom teacher who captures the attention of his students with his animated storytelling and use of visual aids.

The teaching style of Peñaflorida inspired one of his former students, 17-year-old Michael Advincula, to become one of the pushcart teachers of Peñaflorida's Dynamic Teen Co. (DTC), the group that earned the former a citation as CNN's Hero of the Year.

CNN had interviewed Advincula for its website story on Peñaflorida in March. Advincula, a former scavenger who scuffled rugby instead of going to school, said joining Peñaflorida's group had given his life new direction.

STREET KID, A8

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

PCSO

6/42	32 31 14 8 11 22
SUERTES	5 0 7 0 5 0
4D's & 3D's	9 9 8 7 7 4 7
MEGALOTTO 6/45	11 12 16 29 35 43
	₱4,500,000.00

52% of Pinoys distrust GMA–survey

MORE THAN HALF OF FILIPINOS DON'T TRUST President Macapagal-Arroyo and disapprove of her performance with less than six months left in her presidency, according to the latest Pulse Asia survey released yesterday.

In the Ulat ng Bayan survey conducted on Oct. 22-28, 55 percent were critical of Ms Arroyo's performance while 32 percent did not trust her, Ronald Holmes, head of the independent pollster, said.

"Every time an administration is about to end, we expect a drop in their approval and trust ratings," Holmes said, adding that Ms Arroyo's lack of popularity may hurt the candidates she would endorse in next May's national and local elections.

About 48 million Filipinos are expected to elect a president, vice president, nearly 280 lawmakers for the two houses of Congress, and more than 17,000 local government officials.

Gibo's poor ratings

Ms Arroyo's chosen successor, former Defense Secretary Gilberto "Gibo" Teodoro, Jr., has trailed poorly in surveys compared to rare opposition senators—Benigno "Noynoy" III Aquino and Manuel Villar from former President Joseph Estrada, whose eligibility as a presidential candidate remains under a cloud after he was convicted of plunder and later pardoned, has better ratings than the administration standard-bearer.

Aftermath

Holmes said President Arroyo's performance rating suffered in the survey of 1,800 respondents nationwide because it was done just a few weeks after the country was battered by massive typhoons.

Her approval rating in October declined to 21 percent from 33 percent in August while her disapproval rating rose to 51 from 43 during the same period.

Her trust rating showed a similar 2 percentage points decline, from 35 percent to 33 percent, while her distrust rating was by 10 percentage points from 43 percent in August.

"The last time the president's disapproval and distrust ratings went above the 50 percent level was in 2005, right after the way-linked to allegations of election fraud in the 2004 polls," Holmes said. It is slightly improved but is starting to fall off again.

Palace reaction

Malacañang spokesperson Gary Olivar shrugged off the President's poor ratings, saying that she should be measured based on her work ethic and accomplishments.

"These surveys are opinion-based and we don't think it represents a significant number of Filipinos," Olivar said. "The President has been focused on just delivering basic social services for the poorest of the poor. That's more important for the President than her popularity."

The nationwide survey had an error margin of plus or minus 2 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. Pulse Asia said no party singularly commissioned the survey.

The survey said 52 percent of the respondents had little or no trust in the surveys, 19 percent had much trust, and 29 percent were undecided.

Decline in ambivalence

At the same time, 51 percent disapproved of her performance in the three months preceding the survey, 21 percent approved, and 27 percent were undecided.

Pulse Asia, however, noted that the increase in presidential disapproval and distrust ratings may be attributed to the decline of those who were ambivalent about the President's performance (from 34 percent in August to 27 percent) and trustworthiness (from 37 percent to 28 percent).

The highest increase in distrust came from the Visayas at 17 percentage points (from 36 percent in August to 53 percent). Distrust among those in the balance of Luzon significantly increased by 12 percentage points (from 40 percent to 52 percent).

Mali slips, too

The performances of other top government officials was rated in the same Pulse Asia survey.

Vice President Noli de Castro got a 43 percent approval rating and 27 percent disapproval rating, while 28 percent were aware of his performance. While he remained to have the highest overall approval rating among the top government officials in the survey, his approval rating dipped by 12 percentage points from the August survey (from 55 to 43 percent), Pulse Asia noted.

The approval ratings of three other ranking officials—Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Speaker Prospero Nograles and Chief Justice Reynato Puno—also all dipped.

Laurence de Guzman, Inquirer Research with a report from Reuters

'Urduja' threatens Visayas, Mindanao

EIGHT PROVINCES IN THE VISAYAS AND Mindanao were placed under storm signal No. 1 as tropical depression "Urduja" entered the Philippine area of responsibility yesterday afternoon.

Under the storm signal are Leyte, Southern Leyte, Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Siargao and Dinagat Islands.

Urduja, according to the 5 p.m. weather update of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), is bringing winds from 30 to 60 kilometers per hour.

Pagasa warned that rains spawned by Urduja may cause flooding and landslides in the affected areas and urged residents to take precautions.

Urduja, the 21st weather disturbance to hit the country this year, is not likely to be the last.

Pagasa Deputy Administrator Nathaniel Cruz said another tropical depression has been spotted over the Pacific east of Mindanao but is is too early to tell if it would hit the country.

Urduja was spotted east of Surigao City, carrying maximum winds of 55 kph and slowly moving northwest yesterday.

Cruz said it may make landfall in Surigao or in Sanchez's Leyte but it was crawling at a very slow pace.

"You know any hurricane moves that it is also practically not moving," said Cruz. He said there was little possibility that it would develop into a storm because it was too close to land.

He said it was not likely to affect Metro Manila or any part of Luzon. *Miko Pilos*

Oil firms up prices by P1.50

SMALL OIL FIRMS Eastern Petroleum Corp., Flying V Philippines and Total Phils. have raised the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by P1.50 a liter effective today.

Total, however, said it was making it P2 the discount it gives public utility vehicles on diesel in solidarity strikers action.

According to Flying V spokesperson Joey Cruz, the price adjustment was primed for annual tranche of increases to make up for loses incurred during the time Executive Order No. 839 was in effect.

EO 839 froze fuel prices effective Oct. 15 levels in Luzon, which was placed under a state of calamity because of the damage wrought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and "Pepeng." The price rep was lifted on Monday last week.

Oil industry executives earlier said the amount they had to recover stood at P4 to P5 a liter.

Two days after the EO was lifted, oil companies raised prices of diesel by P1 a liter, gasoline by P1.25 to P1.50 a liter, and kerosene by P1.50 a liter. Amy R. Remo

Oil companies not in a cartel, says 'Mareng Winnie'

FORMER SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING Secretary Arsenio "Mareng Winnie" Monasol yesterday defended the oil price increases, saying the Oil Deregulation Law prevented oil companies from forming cartels and over-pricing gasoline.

Monasol, appearing as an amicus curiae (friend of the court) at Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26, also criticized recently resigned Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ralph Recto for getting his calculations wrong when he said gasoline was overpriced by P6 a liter.

Monasol, an economics professor at the University of the Philippines, had supported by subcommittee economic.

He said the Oil Deregulation Law prevented the big oil companies—Chevron Philippines Inc. (formerly Caltex), Filipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Petron Corp.—from monopolizing or cartelizing the industry.

"Because if there was a cartel, it does not seem to have succeeded in overpricing and monopolizing profits," said Monasol.

In a statement she read before the court, Monasol cited theoretical and empirical bases for her observations.

The theoretical basis, she said, is that the oil industry is a contestable market. She explained that in a perfectly contestable market, companies that overcharge would be threatened with replacement by new industry entrants.

Only companies operating at the lowest possible cost can survive in a contestable market, she said.

"In sum, firms in a perfectly contestable market will be forced to operate as efficiently as possible and to charge prices as low as long-run financial survival permits," Jeannette C. Andrade

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AN OPEN LETTER TO DENR SECRETARY JOSELITO L. ATIENZA

November 24, 2009

HON. JOSELITO L. ATIENZA
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Secretary Lito Atienza

It was with great joy that we ended our meeting last Wednesday, November 18, 2009, when, after finding out that the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the mining company, Intex Resources, in Mindoro was acquired with grave irregularity – that it was given without the required genuine consultations and endorsements of the affected local government units, as attested by the mayors of the two directly affected towns and the governors and congressmen of the two provinces of Mindoro – you promised to suspend the ECC. We admired then your sense of justice and your commitment to stand by the truth. All the hunger strikers and their supporters happily celebrated a thanksgiving mass outside the DENR compound. But alas, the rejoicing was short-lived when your order came out a couple of hours later! It was just a mere 90-day suspension order. Your letter did not reflect accurately the discussions and agreements of the meeting, among which (1) the recognition of the LGU's moratorium on mining; (2) the failure of the Intex Resources to conduct genuine consultations in the affected communities; (3) the steadfast refusal of LGUs to allow the entry of the Intex Resources in the area; and (4) the sustained rejection and withholding of consent of the legitimate indigenous people to be affected by the mining operation.

We all felt betrayed. If the ECC was acquired with irregularity, why should it be just suspended for 90 days? Is it not invalid, and being so, must be revoked? Other thoughts then came to my mind. In the said dialogue, in front of two provincial governors, several mayors, congressmen, priests, two bishops, DENR officials and several Mangyan leaders, you were empathic about your allegiance to the law and your assurance to punish anyone in your office who does not abide by the law. In our spontaneous joy at your declaration of withdrawal of the ECC, we were not able to follow up the name of the person who recommended to you its issuance without the proper procedure. Who had been at fault in issuing the ECC? Is anyone accountable for it?

We also discussed about the area covered being a watershed. You were once again emphatic that no mining company will ever be allowed to operate in a watershed area. Despite DENR's failure to formally declare part of the contested location a watershed, all of the representatives from Mindoro present in the dialogue confirmed that some 11,000 hectares covered by the ECC definitely include a watershed essential for food production and as source of potable water for the two Mindoro provinces.

The fact that the area is a watershed has long been established and explains why former DENR Secretary Alvarez cancelled the company's mining permit in July 2005. Even the technical descriptions of the place bear this out. Why then was the ECC merely suspended, and not cancelled as logic demands? Will a mere suspension order correct this mistake?

Take note that the mining concession is not only a catchment for the critical watershed of the island, but the area also overlaps with the ancestral domains of the indigenous peoples – Alangan and Tadyawan Mangyans, whose leaders and representatives are continually holding the hunger strike in front of your DENR office. They categorically declare that a genuine Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) was never granted and that the Intex Resources resorted to deception and indirect bribery to get a pseudo support from a number of indigenous leaders.

I do not know what manner of advice you received to issue this suspension. But it is not too late to correct the error – and soon! The 25 hunger strikers, most of them Mangyans, are now on the 11th day of their hunger strike. Don't you care at all for their situation? Is this not part of your pro-life stance? We hear that in a matter of days you will submit your resignation to join the 2010 elections. Is the delay a tactic to wash your hands from your responsibility? You issued the defective ECC; have the courage to revoke it! Allow me to remind you that your responsibility is more towards the care of the Philippine environment and the Filipinos who mostly depend on a well-balanced ecosystem than towards foreign investors who are here not to help our country – in spite of all their protestations – but to exploit us and our natural resources. If you would have to make a mistake, better err defending the laws of the Filipino people, than err defending money and foreigners! Better to lose your face in front of foreigners than to lose it in front of your countrymen and women!

Mindoro, blessed by God with rich natural resources, is a food basket of the southern Tagalog provinces, including Metro Manila. Thousands of small farmers depend on the rivers flowing from the mountains for their irrigation. All these would be lost due to mining operation. It is because of this delicate balance of nature on the island that the provinces of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro and the Municipality of Sablayan, where the mining site is located, have issued a moratorium of mining for 25 years.

In our dialogue, you have repeatedly challenged the local officials of the island to stand their ground not to allow mining operation in the two provinces. And indeed, they have stood their ground! They have issued the moratorium. But who is this not being respected by your national office? The ECC you issued is for mining. The provinces have clearly stated that they do not want mining. Why have you even entertained the application for its issuance, and much more, issued it?

You have always insisted on the observance of the law. But the way you disregarded the decision of the local government units in Mindoro is a gross violation of Section 26 of the Mining Act of 1995, which clearly requires the conduct of a genuine consultation, approval and endorsement through ordinance from the affected municipalities and the provincial government.

Moreover, the basis for issuing the ECC is utterly baseless since you also disregarded the decision of the independent scientists who conducted the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA Review Committee for the Minalora Nickel Project voted on September 23, 2009 to recommend the denial of the ECC. However, on October 14, 2009, you unilaterally reversed the experts' decision and issued the ECC, thereby endangering the environmental safety of the island province.

I appeal to you, Mr. Secretary, to revoke the ECC. Do not blame the people for going into hunger strike. They would not have done it if the ECC was not issued in the first place. They want to have their voices heard, and now, many people even out of Mindoro – bishops, priests, religious, lawmakers, students, parishioners and many NGO supporters are hearing it. Now is the chance for you to prove your pro-life stand and the respect you held out for the primacy of local government. Otherwise, please do not campaign on pro-life issues in the coming election and do not claim that you are for the good of the primacy of local government in which you would be running.

"If you close your ear to the cry of the poor, you will cry out and not be heard." (Proverbs 21,13)

I pray that you would have courage, humility and compassion.

Yours truly,

TEODORICK L. PABLLO, D.D
Auxiliary Bishop of Manila
Chairman of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Social Action – Justice and Peace

This ad is sponsored by the following local officials from Oriental Mindoro: Congressmen Alfonso Umali, Jr., Congressmen Rodolfo Valencia, Gov. Arnan Panaligan, Vice Gov. Rubie Ramiro and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Oriental Mindoro; Mayor Alfredo Ortega, Jr., Mayor Salvador Leachon, Mayor Rainer Marcos, Mayor Hubert Sotto, Mayor Rolando Arriola, Mayor Wilfredo Arrivado, Mayor Rolando Morales, Mayor Hermilo Umali and Mayor Antonio Sy, and Occidental Mindoro Gov. Josephine Romero Sato, Vice Gov. Mario Gene Mendoza and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Occidental Mindoro, Mayor Gotardo Mintu, Mayor Eric Constantino, Mayor Alexander Houghton, Mayor Lito Ortega, Mayor Romulo Hortin, Mayor Benjamin Trio, Mayor Juan Sanchez and Mayor Jovie Ibañez, in coordination with Alyansa Laban sa Mina (ALAMIN) and Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM).

Road rage suspect's SUV found; stepdad denies hiding him

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Julie M. Aurelio

NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION and Philippine National Police operatives have found the Honda CRV allegedly used by the persons who shot and killed Renato Victor Eluarte Jr., a Malacañang official's son on Wednesday.

NBI Special Action Force Chief Angelito Magno told reporters the CRV with diplomatic license plate 2050 was found by NBI operatives and members of the National Capital Region Police Office Highway Patrol Group at a house in 1001 Village, Concepcion Uno, Marikina City, owned by a relative of suspected gunman Jason Felso.

Magno said the car was tracked based on information given by barangay tanod Jessie Flautea, who needed his Mayflower Eguilan, Felso's mother.

The vehicle's owner, Asian Development Bank consultant Stephen Bollard, Felso's stepfather, went to the NBI offices yesterday to deny he was cuddling his suspect.

Bollard offered his condolences to Eluarte's family. "There is no justice in this incident. Wherever is responsible should give himself up," he said.

Bollard's lawyer, Alexis Medina, told reporters there was no truth to reports his client was not cooperating with authorities. "That is why we came here to answer some questions," he said.

"Bollard has no knowledge of the whereabouts of Jason. They have not communicated. They hardly see each other," Medina said.

Bollard, however, admitted dining with Felso at 7 p.m. on Wednesday hours before the shooting.

Flores, the householder at Aguilar's house on Hillside Drive, Blue Ridge A, Quezon City, told the Inquirer she last saw Felso Thursday morning but she noticed nothing out of the ordinary in his behavior.

"He even waved me that morning. We were laughing. He was always like that," Flores said.

The Quezon City Police District yesterday filed a murder complaint at the Quezon City prosecutor's office against Felso, an American citizen, for allegedly gunning down Eluarte.

Eluarte, the son of Undersecretary Renato Eluarte Sr., was shot to death with a .45-cal. pistol after his Toyota Land Cruiser almost collided with the CRV allegedly driven by Felso at the corner of Boni Serrano and Granada streets in Quezon City.

The night before Eluarte was shot, another motorist, Mandito Cuya, 47, told the QCPD CIDU Felso had pointed a gun at him in another traffic altercation.

Chief Insp. Benjamin Clemente Jr., CIDU homicide chief, showed Cuya a photo of Felso whom Cuya identified as the man who pointed a gun at him.

Cuya, a businessman, was with his wife, mom, 8-year-old daughter and year-old niece when they ran into Felso at First and Hemady Streets in New Manila.

"They started cutting each other off, then Felso got closer and pointed his gun at Cuya," Clemente said in Filipino.

21 killed in Maguindanao massacre

From page A1

Among those feared dead were 13 media people, the largest group of journalists ever killed on a single incident.

Military and police investigators found a backhoe owned by the Maguindanao provincial government in the killing field planted to coax and construct, raising the possibility that some of those slaughtered may have been hastily buried in a mass grave.

Buhisan Vice Mayor Ishmael "Toto" Mangudadatu said among those killed were his two sisters—Reina, the vice mayor of Mangudadatu town, and Bailan—along with his 34-year-old wife Genalyn Hamisan and legal counsels Gemma Dipatuan and Connie Bihag.

The victims were in the group that included some 28 other women supporters, accompanied by over 30 journalists, when Vice Mayor Mangudadatu had them killed while doing their job," Datumo said in a statement.

"There must be a total stop to these senseless violence and carnage in the highest form. I strongly recommend that a state of emergency be imposed in the area and everyone be disarmed. Anything less will not work," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered military and police officials "to conduct immediate and relentless pursuit of the perpetrators" and secure the area, Malacañang said in a statement last night.

"His effort will be spared to bring justice to the victims and hold the perpetrators accountable to the full limit of the law," Ms Arroyo said.

Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said that the dead numbered 21. But Maguindanao's office released a list of 56 fatalities. (See list on this page).

"More bodies are believed to be buried so efforts to recover the dead are continuing," Brawner said.

He said that the 6th Infantry Division, under Maj. Gen. Alfredo Cayton had been deployed to pursue the kidnappers and possible survivors.

Victims unarmed civilians

"This can already be considered as a massacre because the victims were unarmed, helpless civilians and merely female," Brawner said.

He said the armed men included "elements of militia groups and supporters of the Maguindanao governor."

Officials said that the Mangudadatu group had set out from Buluan at 9 a.m. for Shariff Aguak, an hour later, at the boundary of Ampatuan and Shariff Aguak towns, 58 kilometers away, armed men stopped the convoy.

The bodies were found 3 kilometers away.

Mangudadatu said that Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., the governor's son, was in the group that stopped the convoy.

Testimony of witnesses

Mangudadatu said three were witnesses who claimed that the Ampatuan Jr., apparently seeing trouble, pulled out his knife and stabbed the younger Ampatuan.

The vice mayor said that at around 10 a.m. he received a call from his wife that at least 100 armed men were holding his convoy.

Mangudadatu said Genalyn even complained that one of the armed men, whom she identified as "Ampatuan's men," slapped her.

That was the last time the vice mayor heard his wife's voice, Toto Datumo, Mangudadatu's family spokesman, said.

Datumo said that one of the bodies found in the village of Masalay in Datu Abdullah Sangki town is Mangudadatu's

List of victims

FOLLOWING IS AN INITIAL LIST OF THOSE ABDUCTED AND feared killed as provided to Maguindanao gubernatorial aspirant, Vice Mayor Ishmael "Toto" Mangudadatu of Buluan town:

1. Genalyn Tamsen Hamisan (candidate, the vice mayor's wife	**Media practitioners:** 19. Ian Subian
2. Edwi Mangudadatu, the vice mayor's sister	20. Leah Dalmacio
3. Farida Salindula, the vice mayor's youngest sister	21. Gina dela Cruz
4. Rowena Mangudadatu	22. Marlene Cultura
5. Margarina Mangudadatu	23. Bart Maravilla Bonilla
6. Farida Mangudadatu	24. Joy Duay
7. Tamra Mangudadatu	25. Henry Arroyo-cutter
8. Lemae Cynthia Dipatuan	26. Andy Teodoro
9. Dipatuan's father	27. Bong Feldandia, Manila Bulletin
10. Lawyer Connie Bihasada	28. Alan Ray Arreola
11. Abdulla Ali Kalikan	29. Jimmy Cutaliu
12. Zonaida Kiram	30. Reming Montano del P
13. Asmijan Unto	31. Victor Nuñez
14. Zaida Abdul	Drivers:
15. Pinky Balayman	32. A certain Chito
16. Elio Balayman	33. Abdula Hajdi
17. Rahima Pogas	34. Raoul Daud, driver of Rep. Pax Mangudadatu
18. Mariam Cabual	35. Eugene Sollepo
	36. Patrick Pinsoncan

AFP/PHOTO COURTESY OF ISMAEL MANGUDADATU

Ampatuan has told reporters that people did not fan against him or his family members in elections because they had little chance of winning.

"It's because of popular support," he said. "Because I am related by the constituencies of the municipalities, they ask me to have my name as representative."

Mr. Ampatuan has called Mangudadatu a valuable ally in the push for the 2004 presidential elections, she won most of the votes in Maguindanao. In one town, her rivals did not get even a single vote.

Governor in Palace meeting

Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio confirmed that he met with ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan, but stressed that this was about local politics—not the political situation in Maguindanao—and was but one of a series of meetings he had with administration stalwarts in the area in connection with the coming elections.

"We're still trying to get a clear picture of what happened, how it happened, and who are involved," Claudio told the Inquirer. "But we're looking upon the situation with alarm, shock, and outrage."

Claudio said the administration would not "tolerate" the massacre especially if the killings were done by party members.

But Claudio added it was still difficult for the Palace to issue a formal statement on the matter under the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines had come up with a clearer investigation.

"This is something that we look on with urgency," Claudio said.

In the meeting, Claudio said Ampatuan "encouraged" his lineup of candidates in Isulan led by Brig. Mamin Adiong, who said the group was challenging incumbent Sultan Kudarat Rep. Suharto Mitra, who is also with the administration.

"They just wanted to get the President's assurance, the party's assurance, our assurance, that they're going to have a fair choice. They're protected from the party," Claudio said. —With reports from Jocelyn R. Uy, Christine V. Esguerra, Inquirer Mindanao, Reuters

Media groups demand justice for colleagues

From page A1

said Jaime Espino of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

National Press Club of the Philippines president Benny Antiporda said President Macapagal-Arroyo had to prove she could deliver justice for the victims.

"The government needs to do something about this culture of impunity," Antiporda said, referring to the widespread belief that the government has failed to prosecute those who attacked journalists in the past.

One journalist who narrowly avoided the massacre, Joseph Jubelag, editor of the Mindanao Bulletin, a local weekly, said he was originally meant to be part of the convoy.

But Jubelag said he decided not to go on where he was told by some soldiers that reporters men had visited the governor's house where the reporters were staying, asking for the names of the journalists accompanying the Mangudadatus.

"I was alarmed. I decided I really was to proceed," he said.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said in a report this year that the Philippines was among several countries where media workers were murdered with impunity.

It ranked the situation in the Philippines as the ninth worst in the world, ahead only of war-torn Afghanistan. It said 68 journalists had been killed in the Philippines since 1992. AFP

Climate change worsens far faster than predicted

From page A1

Greenland and Antarctica, ice sheets have lost trillions of tons of ice. Mountain glaciers in Europe, South America, Asia and Africa are shrinking faster than before.

And it's not just the frozen parts of the world that have felt the heat as the theme years leading up to next month's climate summit in Copenhagen:

- The world's oceans have risen by about an inch and a half.
- Droughts and wildfires have ravaged more severe worldwide. Areas the Americas, West to Australia to the baked desert of North Africa.
- Species now in trouble because of changing climate include rare bats the Gaudwing pygmy bear that has become a symbol of global warming, and the whole Arctic marine food web, colorful frogs and entire stands of North American pine forests.
- Temperatures over the past 12 years are 0.4 of a degree warmer than the dozen years leading up to 1997.

Even though the current climate could be back in the 1990s didn't forecast models quite this bad so fast.

'We're in more trouble'

"The latest science is telling us we are in more trouble than we thought," said Jason Patton, climate and energy fellow at Stevenson Greenwood Blue Horizons.

And here's why: Since an agreement to reduce greenhouse gas pollution was signed in Kyoto, Japan, in December 1997, the level of carbon dioxide in the air has increased 0.5 percent.

Officials from across the world will convene in Copenhagen next month to seek a follow-up pact, one that US President Barack Obama says "has immediate operational effect ... an important step forward in the effort to curb the world annual a solution."

The last effort didn't quite get the anticipated results.

From 1997 to 2008, world carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels have increased 31 percent; US emissions of this greenhouse gas rose 3.7 percent. Emissions from China, now the biggest producer of this pollution, have more than doubled in the same time period.

When the US Senate balked at the 1997 accord and President George W. Bush withdrew branch, that meant that the top three carbon polluters—the United States, China and India—were not part of the pact's emissions reductions.

Developing nations were not covered by the Kyoto Protocol, and that will be a major issue in Copenhagen.

Happening sooner

And the effects of greenhouse gases are more powerful and happening sooner than predicted, scientists said.

"Back in 1997, the impacts [of climate change] were unidirectional; the rate of change has been faster," said Virginia Burkett, chief scientist for global change research in the US Geological Survey.

That last part stems former Vice President Al Gore, who helped broker a last-minute deal in Kyoto.

"By far the most serious difference that we've had is an unanticipated of the effects itself," Gore said in an interview this month with The Associated Press.

In 1997, global warming was an issue for climate scientists, environmentalists and policy wonks. Now biologists, lawyers, economists, engineers, insurance analysts, risk managers, disaster professionals, commodities traders, investments, architects and even psychologists are working on global warming.

"We've come from a time in 1997 where they was some abstract problem working its way around scientific circles to now where the problem is in every-one's face," said Andrew Dessler, a University of Houston climate scientist.

The changes in the last 12 years that have the scientists most alarmed are happening in the Arctic with melting summer sea ice and around the world with the loss of key land-based ice masses.

It's all happening far faster than predicted.

Loss of summer sea ice

Back in 1997, "nobody in their wildest expectations" would have foreseen the dramatic sudden loss of summer sea ice in the Arctic that started about five years ago, Parsons said.

From 1953 to 1997, sea ice had shrunk on average in the summer in about 3.7 million square miles. The average for the last five years is less than 2 million square miles, Parsons said. Parsons is a fine size of Alaska.

Antarctica had a slight increase in sea ice, mostly because of the cooling effect of the ozone hole, according to the British Antarctic Survey.

At the same time, large chunks of ice shelves—adding up to the size of Delaware—came off the Antarctic peninsula.

While melting Arctic ocean ice doesn't take sea levels, the melting of giant land-based ice sheets and glaciers that drain into the seas do. Those are shrinking dramatically or both poles.

Measurements show that since 2008, Greenland has lost more than 5.3 trillion tons of ice, while Antarctica has lost about 1 trillion tons since 2002, according to two scientific studies published this fall.

In multiple reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports, scientists didn't anticipate ice sheet loss to be dramatic. Dessler said that the rate of those losses is accelerating, so that Greenland's ice sheets are melting twice as fast now as they were just seven years ago, increasing sea level rise.

Shrinking 3 times faster

Worldwide glaciers are shrinking three times faster than in the 1990s and the average glacier has lost 25 feet of ice since 1997, said Michael Zemp, a researcher at World Glacier Monitoring Service at the University of Zurich.

"The ice are a good measure indicator," Zemp said. "What we see is an accelerated loss of ice."

Also, permafrost—the frozen northern ground that oil pipelines are built upon and which traps the potent greenhouse gas methane—is thawing at an alarming rate, Burkett said.

Antarctica ice gains 1997 to part of global warming has not entirely yet concerned.

The oceans are getting more acidic because more of the carbon dioxide in the air is being absorbed into the water. That means acidification, an issue that didn't even merit a name until the past few years.

More acidic water harms coral, oysters and plankton and ultimately threatens the ocean food chain, biologists say.

In 1997, "there was no issue or in plants and animals" and have they are hampered by climate change, said Stanford University biologist Terry Root.

Now, scientists are talking about which species can be saved from extinction and which are goners.

The polar bear became the first species put on the federal list of threatened species and the small cuddly like American pika may be joining it.

Pine forests damaged

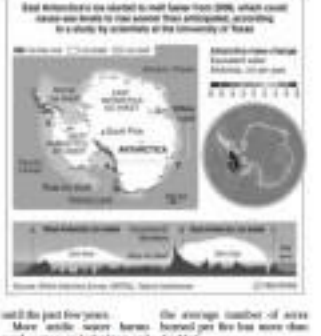
More than 37 million acres of Canadian and US pine forests have been damaged by beetles that don't die in warmer winters.

And in the American West, the average number of acres burned by fire has more than doubled.

The Colorado River reservoir, major water supplies for the US West, were nearly full in 1999. By 2005 January, half the water was gone after the region endured the worst multiyear drought in 100 years of record keeping.

Hotter summers and blackouts have soared and experts say global warming is partly to blame. The number of major US weather-related blackouts from 2003-2008 were more than seven times higher than from 1993-1997, said Tom Bell, a staff scientist in the Governor Berkeley National Lab.

"The message are the science is that we know a lot more than we did in 1997 and it's all negative," said Eileen Claussen, president of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. "Things are much worse than the models predicted." AP



Brazilian is Miss Earth

By Aeriss Adina

MISS EARTH the morning after on Boracay

PHOTO/AERISS ADINA

BRUCE TIFFANY of the Philippines' attempt to win a back-to-back victory in the Miss Earth beauty pageant held at Boracay Travellodge Convention Center on the island of Boracay Sunday night.

Brazil's Larissa Ramos bested 79 other contestants, including Jamaican Jet Setcher Rose Jedlicka. She took home the $25,000 prize and the distinction of being the first woman to receive the newly designed crown valued at $100,000. Last year's winner, the Philippines' Karla Paula Henry gave her a tight embrace before relinquishing the title.

Ramos is the second Brazilian to be proclaimed Miss Earth, the first one being Priscilla Meirelles, who chaired the pageant's panel of judges.

Serbia placed second and runa pro. claimed Miss Air. She was a heavy favorite leading into the finals and had earlier received two major awards during the preliminary competitions, namely Best in Swimsuit and Best in Evening Gown.

In the final round of competition, the ladies were shown photographs depicting environmental issues and were asked for their solutions.

Ramos, a 20-year-old Biology student, talked about air pollution. With the aid of an interpreter, she said her country had the largest rainforest on earth and was responsible for "lungs of the world."

Brazil, however, is also the world's worst air polluter, she admitted.

When it was her turn, Indira discussed water pollution.

"We are the root of all these problems. But the good news is, we are also the solution," said the 25-year-old nurse. "We can make the change now. Now is the time for leaders to be born, for us to embrace this mission, and become creative in solving our problems."

The mostly Filipino crowd at the coliseum went responded with thunderous applause.

After the proclamation of winners, the other delegates walked over to congratulate Ramos and Jedlicka, as well as the two other winners, Miss Water Jessica Barbosa of Venezuela and Miss Fire Alejandra Echeverria of Spain.

The delegates from Thailand, Ireland, Washington and Colombia made it to the Top 8. The other ladies in the Top 16 were the representatives from Korea, Northern Ireland, Saudi Africa, France, Singapore, Georgia, India and Hungary.

This was the first time Boracay hosted an international beauty contest. Pageant host Mary Nelson said the venue was built specifically for the Miss Earth pageant, a Philippine-based competition that started in 2001.

SHOW OF SUPPORT. A courtesy call was made by the heads of various media organizations in support of Philippine Daily Inquirer President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, the next Philippine Advertising Congress Chair. Present during the gathering were (l. to. R). United Print Media Group President Pepsi Claro, Outdoor Advertising Association President Frank Abuyuan, Independent Broadcasters Association of the Philippines President Nonie Cadiang, Philippine Daily Inquirer President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Cinema Advertising Association of the Philippines President Jose Sy, and Philippine Daily Inquirer Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Peter Remotes.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, November 24, 2009
Feast of Christ the King
Ambrose Zhang Lae and Companions
(1st Reading: Dn 7:13-14
Gospel: Jn 18:33b-37)

While some people were talking about the Temple, remarking that it was adorned with fine stonework and with gifts, Jesus said to them, "The days will come when there shall not be left one stone upon another of all that you now admire; all will be torn down." And they asked him, "Master, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

And then said, "Take care not to be deceived, for many will come claiming my title and saying, 'I am he,' the Messiah; the time is at hand." Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and troubled times, don't be frightened, for all this must happen first, even though the end is not at once."

And Jesus said, "Nation will fight each other and kingdom will oppose kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and plagues, in many places strange and terrible happenings from heaven will be seen."

Commentary:

The king's dream in the Book of Daniel represented the kingdoms of the world, that would successively rule the nations and influence the affairs of the Jewish people. The head of gold signified the Chaldean empire, then its successors. The bronze and iron of other signified the empire of the Medes and Persians. The belly and thighs of bronze signified the Grecian empire, founded by Alexander. The legs and feet of iron signified the Roman empire. The Roman empire branched into 10 kingdoms, just like the 10 toes of the feet. Some were small as clay; others strong as iron.

The scene set without Jesus represented the kingdoms of God, which should be set up in the world, upon the ruins of Satan's kingdom. They are like those the builders refused, because it was not cut out by their hands; but, it became the cornerstone. Christ Christ shall reign, not only to the end of time, but after time and days are no more. As the accursed enemy has gone, the fulfillment of this prophetic vision has been most weak and undesirable; future ages will witness this vision, destroying Satan's image and filling the whole world with love and hope!

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300,000 more families go hungry after typhoons–SWS

THE PROPORTION OF HABLEIS who experienced involuntary hunger increased nationwide by 2.2 points—the equivalent of an additional 300,000 families—after the onslaught of Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng," according to a special Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.

The survey, conducted from Oct. 24 to 27 and released yesterday, found that hunger rose to 20.9 percent nationwide from the 17.3 percent posted in the previous survey conducted on Sept. 18 to 21.

Ondoy swept across Luzon on Sept. 26, Pepeng struck a week later.

The new hunger figure represented an estimated 3.3 million families, or 200,000 more than the estimated 3.2 million hungry families as of September.

Hunger up in Luzon

The increase occurred mainly in Luzon outside Metro Manila.

SWS said the new reading of hunger "was made possible by adding, with permission, a question formerly for household heads to a survey of adults primarily commissioned by a nonpolitical sponsor who desires anonymity."

The survey question was: "Is there a time in the household's history, during the phrase 'unfortunately' in quotes to avoid having students (superimposed hunger and did not have anything to eat)."

Overall hunger rose by almost 4 percentage points in Luzon outside Metro Manila, from 12.3 percent (1.1 million families) in September to 19.3 percent (1.6 million families) in October.

It rose by almost 2 points in the Visayas, from 19 percent (1,700,000 families) to 20.3 percent (750,000 families).

It declined by almost 9 points in Metro Manila, from 24.7 percent (800,000 families) to 16 percent (390,000 families).

1,200 respondents

It fell by almost 2 points in Mindanao, from 19.7 percent (680,000 families) to 18 percent (700,000 families).

According to SWS, the rise in severe hunger in just over a month resulted from a 0.5-point increase in "moderate hunger" combined with a 0.8-point increase in "severe hunger."

"Moderate hunger," or those who experienced hunger "only once" or "a few times" in the last three months, went up 2 points from 2,150,000 families in September to 5.8 percent (750,000 families) in October.

The survey was conducted using in face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults. It had an error margin of plus or minus 3 percent for national percentages and plus or minus 6 percent for Metro Manila subgroups. Ellen Malefia, Inquirer Research

"Severe hunger," or those who suffered hunger "often" or "always" in the last three months, went up 2 points from 2,150,000 families in September to 5.8 percent (750,000 families) in October.

The survey was conducted using in face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults. It had an error margin of plus or minus 3 percent for national percentages and plus or minus 6 percent for Metro Manila subgroups. Ellen Malefia, Inquirer Research

Bicol film on hunger draws 12 million hits

Front page A1

It's a story of people starving, big for food so they can survive. The film has no dialogue and is without the melodrama commonly in many other Filipino films, and it has an ironic name.

The film starts with a familiar scene: showing neon signs of fast-food chains in Bicol City and then panning to the country's treasures and endearing food.

Dissolve shifts to a scene outside the restaurant showing a skinny man driving a "pedicab" (foot-pedaled bicycle with a sidecar) toward the eatery.

The man goes to the kitchen and in a bin where the chef had been dumped. He segregates and collects the leftovers, then drives home.

Grace at the end

A later scene shows the man arriving at the poor community where he lives. Children welcome him and soon are seen scrambling for the drop.

In the final scene, the man reaches his shanty where his pregnant wife and his children await him. She starts setting the table and he distributes the leftovers from the restaurant on each plate, and says grace.

His gesture was the result of his daughter, who is in a hunger strike, that there is no more to eat.

The film ends on that scene.

With a background song that Dimalanta himself composed and sang, the film delivers a final blow to people's indifference to the problem of hunger, hammering the viewers with its lyrics:

Let me tell short story/ that no one else can beat/ How can someone's laughter/ bring me close to tears/ And you'll never know/ Once you've been there/ After what we've seen/ are we close our eyes again?

Anger, shame

The film is over in five minutes, leaving an impact largely disproportionate to its length, judging from comments of thousands of viewers in www.facebook.com/pages/Gutom, the YouTube and Multiply.

Their comments range from approval of the film to anger, shame and guilt.

A viewer writing as Sofea Amaga-de Figueiras says: "Extraordinarily good. It made me cry. Very moving. Salute Dimalanta the Food (naalala niy bean). I wish I were rich to satisfy the hunger of many people. And to think that there have been persons who pay millions to go to space, instead of doing something in favor of those very poor."

"What a short film made my heart cry," Mabe1729 comments. "We complain [of] small things in life and only see our problems, [while] there are so many people in the world dying of hunger, we should appreciate life and the good fortune of being[born in a country where there is no hunger ... This film should be seen in every country in this planet."

"I am devastated by this short film," Shen5555 says.

Writes BCB2009: "This film obviously refers to the Philippines where in my opinion the biggest problem is corruption not brought on globalization but by their own government organizations. The corruption prevents funds to misappropriation of goods intended to aid the needy."

A true story

Dimalanta was surprised at how a five-minute film could draw huge attention from around the world. He told the Inquirer he based the film on a true story but that it did not point to any particular family of acquaintance.

He said the concept came to him after his employer pointed back told him about a man who collected dupe in a restaurant. His employer owned a fast-food chain and Dimalanta worked as creator of 30-second ads for the company.

Dimalanta said he shot the film in just one day, mobilizing his friends and urban poor dwellers scavenging at Nagy's Bahura dump to shoot it.

Earlier this month, Dimalanta won a guest director at a new film festival held in Nueva Ecija, Canada dubbed "Sine Mo-more", which received around the subject of food.

Dimalanta's "Children a la Carte" and another of his short films, titled "Dimanlilan—the glorious land of cagayan," had a gala screening at the Cannes festival, with other featured films that included other hard-hitting documentaries from countries like Canada and Denmark.

"The first time I saw his 2.0-mademi film to the Web, I knew I had to look for this guy and ask him to be part of our Cannes festival," festival programmer Jack Schoon writes in an e-mail.

Hopefully, the beginning

Dimalanta, who captured the culture of his hometown in "Binasahan," also won in the Short Food Short Film Competition in Modena, Italy, in 2006. He has 900 subscribers.

"I am happy that an honest-to-goodness storytelling of the plight of the poor in our place has captured the hearts of many viewers. I hope this will be the beginning of real reforms that would benefit the most needy and dehumanized in our society," he said.

Peñaflorida's international triumph indictment of RP education

Front page A1

ria (President Macapagal Arroyo) will never stop being amused by (Peñaflorida) in claim credit for her administration."

Order of Lakandula

Mr Arroyo will award the Order of Lakandula to Peñaflorida, an equivalent to officer's and soldier, very are worthy of tenderness.

The Order of Lakandula is conferred by the Philippine government on a civilian who "has demonstrated by his life and deeds a dedication to the welfare of society."

"(He) has indeed proven that any individual can help make a difference in the world," Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

"He has also shown the best in the Filipino. Let each one of us unleash the hero within us by helping the next person as if (he) were ourself," she added.

Financial aid

Lorelei Fajardo, deputy presidential spokesperson, said the government were willing to extend financial aid and other forms of assistance to help Peñaflorida expand his groundbreaking program on education.

Fajardo said Peñaflorida's program was a good example of how the private sector could "augment whatever inadequacies the government may have."

The president of Ateneo, with its record of having at least one college graduate for each batch, will also honor Peñaflorida and give him a cash gift of P200,000.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda said the provincial council would pass a resolution today giving the highest honor possible to Efren, including a cash gift, and name him an honorary son of Albay.

The province has been giving annual awards to outstanding teachers.

Although the Senate passed a resolution last week hailing Peñaflorida for being chosen as a finalist in the search for the CNN Hero of the Year, Sen. Pia Cayetano said she would still file a resolution in honor of the latest education.

"But while his feat should bring great pride to all Filipinos, it also should serve as an eye-opener for the government on the need to address the declining state of education throughout the country," Cayetano said in a statement.

Cayetano said that based on latest statistics from the Department of Education, the dropout rate remained high at 6 percent for the elementary level and 7.45 percent for the secondary level.

High dropout rate

She said Peñaflorida's "youth core classroom" came about because of the low participation rate and high dropout rate in basic education.

Alternative volunteer educators like Peñaflorida emerge because of the perennial problems hounding the system, like lack of teachers, classrooms and learning materials every year, according to Cayetano.

Sen. Ramon "Bong-Bong" Revilla Jr. said Peñaflorida's win was a "wake up call" for the government to address the problems of the country's education system.

Unreached sectors

The Teachers' Dignity Coalition (TDC) said Peñaflorida's achievement served to bring more attention to the problems he had sought to resolve.

In a statement, the TDC said the "indigent classroom" project should serve as a challenge to the government to start paying more attention to educating "unreached" sectors, like the out-of-school youth, street children and indigenous people.

"His project is a creative response to the crisis, in order to address the failure of the Arroyo government to provide free public education to the poor," Antonio Tinio, national chair of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), said in an interview.

Tinio said Peñaflorida's "indigent classroom" project addresses only one of the growing number of uneducated youth.

Citing data from the Department of Education's Bureau of Alternative Learning System, Tinio said the number of dropouts had reached an unprecedented 1.2 million.

"The marked decline in enrollment statistics is largely due to poverty. This is the legacy of the Arroyo administration. No congratulations go to it. This is precisely the problem that Peñaflorida wants to respond to," he said. Report by Jaime Bill Gabayno Jr., Charlie O. Avendaño, Christine F. Figueroa and Beverly T. Mayfield in Manila; and Boy M. Rimol, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Street kid going to college from pushcart school

Front page A1

Adrienne told the reporter remember: "There were many changes in my life after I joined the group. I discovered my passion for education."

Adrienne first met Peñaflorida on the now-famous rainy night years ago. He saw Peñaflorida's group giving bread to children playing in Cavite City's dump. Hungry, Adrienne approached Peñaflorida to ask for some bread.

Peñaflorida convinced the hungry boy to join DTC's afternoon class session. Adrienne showed up and never missed the following weekly sessions, when volunteers go around door-to-door in Cavite City pushing carts loaded with blackboards, books and other school supplies.

He described Peñaflorida as an "excellent" teacher who was good at motivating children. "Sir, (he) really loves (our) lessons," Adrienne said.

Two years after, Peñaflorida encouraged Adrienne to take as one of the group's pushcart teachers.

It was difficult for him at first, Adrienne said. "Some of my students looked down on me because of (the) issues about my background."

But he persevered and showed that people could change for the better. Through his lessons young mates are now jobless fathers who never got to finish school, Adrienne is preparing for college next year.

Jumping with joy

Adrienne was very happy and proud when he and his fellow DTC members learned that Peñaflorida had won as CNN's Hero of the Year on Sunday afternoon.

"We were jumping with joy," Adrienne said. "We were chipping and yelling."

Peñaflorida, 40-year-old mother Lorlie was not surprised that her son won. She told the Inquirer that based on latest statistics from the Department of Education, the dropout rate remained high at 6 percent for the elementary level and 7.45 percent for the secondary level.

She said that even in their hometown Cavite City support had been overwhelming.

Lorlie said Peñaflorida dreamed of becoming an engineer when he was growing. He was always with his younger cousins, helping them with their school assignments.

Alternative to gangs

She said, "I saw that he was happy with what he was doing. I just encouraged him to do what he loved doing."

Peñaflorida, 26, started DTC when he was just 16, as an alternative to joining gangs.

Born to a father who worked as a tricycle driver and to a mother who supported the family as a laundry woman, Peñaflorida almost had to drop out of public school.

But he got financial support from Club 8588, a volunteer group based in Cavite City, and from World Vision, a group which monitors sponsors to needy children.

Mark, values education

Supported by these groups, Peñaflorida finished education at Cavite State University in 2003.

Though many of his contemporaries opted to seek higher paying jobs abroad, Peñaflorida chose to stay, continuing his work with DTC as well as his teaching job at Palo Ridge Schools (Cluster) where he teaches arts and values education.

In an earlier interview, Peñaflorida lamented that education in the country "has become a privilege rather than a right."

He said he believed that the solution to the country's problems was educating the youth.

Peñaflorida said, "Education is an effective tool to our development, as long as we combine it with our faith in the Lord."

Manny denies Krista affair, offers apology to Ranillo family

Front page A1

destroy your family... the public just rode on the issue."

"There have been rumors circulating in the tabloids and blogs that (the scandal) was concocted to promote Pacquiao and Krista's coming movie, "Wapakman," an entry in next month's Metro Manila Film Festival.

Asked to comment on this, Pacquiao made a parting shot. "Everything will be right again after the movie opens," he said in Filipino.

Ranillo react

Gloria Jacinto, Krista's grandmother, yesterday told the inquirer: "I heard Manny's interview (Sunday night). We are all very happy to hear Manny's denial. He acted as a decent, educated man should. As he said: We're just family friends."

Sevilla has yet to hear from Krista herself. "She was badly hurt by this, but her father (actor Alan Ranillo III) told me his sister finally is pleased [with the latest developments]," she said in a phone interview.

Although Sevilla played a principal role in the Pacquiao biopic produced by Star Cinema and TV5 Films in 2006, she has never had a face-to-face encounter with the boxer.

"I spoke to him (Pacquiao) on the phone once," she said. "But when I heard his apology (on TV), I felt relieved. To be honest, we even his wife Jinkee said anything bad against Krista. Jinkee only said that she and Manny wanted to concentrate on, and protect their family. I admire her for that."

Political plans

"For what he just did, I commend Manny for being one just a legendary boxing hero, but a true gentleman even outside the ring," said Arnold Vegafria, Krista's manager, who spoke to the boxer by phone from Sweden yesterday.

Krista's supporters, didn't seem to mind that the denial came on the heels of Pacquiao's announcement that he was "100 percent sure" of running for congressman in Sarangani under his People's Champ Movement. However, he has yet to announce his chosen political party.

"I don't want to comment on Manny's political plans. What is more important is that he has apologized to Krista and her family," Vegafria said.

"It looks good—especially since it finally came from Manny himself. We were just waiting for him to make the first move," he added.

"Angelita said Krista would be back in Manila this week to before close the issue.

Sevilla said, "Friends tell me not to get affected by the rumors [but how] can it not affect me? I'm only human."

Child-like Krista

Late June they talked, she said. Krista, "Don't be too sad and choose your friends wisely."

Krista can be child-like and naive, just like Pacquiao, Sevilla said. "Sometimes people misinterpret and abuse them because they are too open and friendly."

First time

According to Vegafria, Krista and Pacquiao only met on the first day of shooting on the set of the movie.

Topel Lee, the film's director, said he didn't notice anything strange during the shoot. "But that was before his training (for his return) fight with Miguel Cotto ... that was when all the rumors came out."

Lee also said that Krista and Pacquiao were "very professional on the set."

Ironically, the rumored lovers play "enemies" in the movie. She's a superhero, she's a sexy mama's villainess.

"They had a big fight scene and they took it seriously," Lee said. "They were very dedicated and made it a point to do their own stunts. It's easy to work with them. Manny always lightens the mood on the set and Krista is very loyal to the entire staff."

Let detainees vote, CHR urges Comelec

By Philip C. Tubeza

TRYING TO TURN CHURCH FOR PEOPLE BY jail, Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chair Leila de Lima yesterday asked the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to set up precincts in lockups so that an estimated 23,000 detainees eligible to vote may do so.

In a hearing on the Comelec yesterday, De Lima said the agency should come up with special polling precincts and voting procedures for detainees.

"The problem is all those years we've been so silent about the detainees. There are no special procedures provided or timeframes for them to really exercise their right of suffrage except for VIPs like former President Joseph Estrada and former [Muslim rebel leader] Nur Misuari," De Lima said.

Under the law, detainees, or those being held while undergoing trial or who are serving a maximum of one year in jail, are eligible to vote.

De Lima said special polling precincts were set up for Estrada and Misuari but they are "not being provided to the ordinary detainees [and] is unfair in every dimension."

She said the Comelec had taken the first step by issuing a resolution providing for the registration of detainees through mobile registration.

"[But] the same resolution provides for affairs executed voting only. There's confusing, meaning [prisoners] have to individually obtain a court order to be allowed to go out," De Lima said.

The CHR chair acknowledged that there was a provision in the Omnibus Election Code prohibiting the putting up of polling places within prison compounds, but she said the Comelec should deliberate between a prison compound and a jail.

"Prison compounds is an color only to that for convicted prisoners like the New Bilibid Prison. Jails are for detention prisoners," she said.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said the Comelec might come out with a resolution on the CHR's petition within the week but added that pending up a precinct inside a jail might be a hard thing to do.

"On a note of realism, it's a little difficult when they're asking for because detainees don't come from one area and precincts are arranged geographically," Jimenez said.

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Next leader must push RP foreign interests–author

By Cathy Taruc

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S successor should design a foreign policy that will cater to Filipino interests instead of maneuvering the current one which is akin to the people's needs, according to a University of the Philippines professor and author.

More specifically, Roland Simbulan of the UP Manila College of Arts and Letters called on presidential aspirants to address the issues left behind by American troops in Subic and Clark under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), and reprogram foreign investments to local enterprises instead of supporting foreign businesses.

Simbulan posed these challenges to the presidential candidates during the launch of his latest book, "Forging A Nationalist Foreign Policy," at UP Diliman last week.

He said that whoever wins in May 2010 should address the issues from a people-based viewpoint instead of an elitist perspective to pave the way for a more Filipino-friendly foreign policy.

In an interview prior to the book launch, Simbulan described the VFA as "negotiated subjugation" to the United States.

He added that the US and Philippine governments for failing to address the issue of toxic waste left behind by the American military in its former bases in Clark and Subic, and for leaving the responsibility to "non-state actors" or private organizations.

Among his other allegations was that the US Central Intelligence Agency used both "Operation" and "non-official cover" to engage in "covert operations, sabotage and political intervention" to undermine Philippine sovereignty.

He warned that foreign policy would not change or improve automatically with the election of a new president in 2010.

"The real hope lies not in the electoral struggle, nor in [Sen. Benigno] "Noynoy" [Aquino III], nor in [Sen. Manuel] Villar, nor in [former President Joseph] "Erap" [Estrada], but in deepening the processes of democratization," Simbulan said.

Philippine foreign policy has always been left to the discretion of the elite who "think as if it is their responsibility to defend foreign interests, not those of fellow Filipinos," he said.

"Hopefully, the new policymakers would heed the advice and recommendations in this book...like how to steer foreign policy to work for our needs," Simbulan said.

He lamented that "we are giving away too much of our natural and human resources," advocating a "self-determined, pro-peace Philippine foreign policy that serves our needs and interests."

Simbulan offered concrete solutions to foreign policy dilemmas. On the issue of debt remittances, he proposed a strategic program for the use of remittances "so the money could be used for national industries or create jobs in the Philippines and support local enterprises instead of foreign industries."

He said the conversion of arable lands that previously hosted US bases must be carefully studied. These lands should be owned and operated by Filipinos for the benefit of Filipinos, he said.

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Since winning countless local and international recognition for its centerpiece Clean and Green/Bantay Puerto Campaign way back in 1992, the City Government of Puerto Princesa has continued to pioneer local government efforts to protect and conserve the environment, working with communities and various stakeholders on the ground, initiating strategic projects on a wide range of concerns ranging from waste management, addressing climate change through law enforcement and awareness campaigns, promotion of sustainable ecotourism models and most recently, spearheading an internet campaign that catapulted the now world famous Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park as a leading candidate in the search for the New 7 Wonders of the World. Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn firmly believes that the environmental condition of the world demands concrete action, not just words. The City administration has thus begun to transform Puerto Princesa into the country's first carbon-negative city, by overhauling its public transport system using renewable energy in lieu of the fossil-fueled generators, and making the city's 66 barangays zero-waste compliant in time for next year's Earth Day celebration.

We walk the talk

Under the leadership of Mayor Edward S Hagedorn Puerto Princesa City established the country's first modern sanitary landfill controlled and operated by a local government unit.

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, visited recently by candidates to the 1000 Ms. Earth Competition, has been effectively conserved by the City Government of Puerto Princesa and is one of the country's top nature attractions and a finalist candidate in the ongoing web-based search for the New 7 Wonders of the World.

Mayor Edward Hagedorn has spearheaded a pioneering campaign to address the challenge of climate change, through the organization of the Global Legal Action for Climate Change that undertakes enforcement and legal action, scientific research, education and advocacy.

As part of the City administration's drive to attain zero carbon emission, Mayor Edward S Hagedorn has embarked on an ambitious drive to introduce the e-jeep and e-trike as the City's main mode of public transport.

Dolphin and whalesharks watching tours at Puerto Princesa Bay, a model in community-based ecotourism

"The environment is not about the birds and the bees, but about life..."

The City government of Puerto Princesa will host the International Conference on Zero Waste with a track record of environmental advocacy and action.

Kapatiran's JC files CoC for presidency

frontpage A1

spleen continued to vote for traditional politicians.

"Enough is enough. Something ought to be done to free Filipinos from corrupt, dirty and unprincipled traditional politicians," said De los Reyes, a former councilor of Olongapo City.

"If we win, we are in for reforms and in transform politics. If not, then at least we would have worn the seeds that will be reaped by our children and grandchildren," he said.

Mass first

De los Reyes and his party mates attended the noon Mass at Sta. Cruz Church in Manila before proceeding to the Comelec office.

The Mass was celebrated by Bonifacio Archbishop Ramon Arguelles and Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias as the regime of Ang Kapatiran party founder Nandy Pacheco and president Eric Manolong.

But Manolong denied it was a mass endorsement from the Church leaders: "We found it appropriate that we have their blessing, which is important to us because we are going on a mission. [Besides] Mommy is like any father would bless his children."

"It's a simple blessing. I don't think it's endorsing. He did not say 'vote for us.'"

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines as a body has been careful not to endorse or disapprove of specific candidates. But individual bishops have spoken out against those taking a position contrary to that of the Church, such as in the debate over House Bill No. 5043 for the Reproductive Health (RH).

He said automation was not the solution to the country's political woes.

"It's easy to count rotten votes. What is more important is that we teach people to think over their choices, study them and pray over them. These are the votes that should be counted by the automated machines," Nonato said.

"Here are, the solution is not in the machine; it is what is in the minds and hearts of the people," he said.

HOPEFUL JC de los Reyes, his wife Dunia and their daughter Barbara arrive at the Comelec main office in Intramuros, Manila. GRACE GRANADOS

Said De los Reyes: "I think the message from our shepherds of the Church is a gesture of message that they have affirmed for Ang Kapatiran because we are a response to their call for the laity to be faithful to their mission in renewing politics according to gospel values."

Good luck

After the Mass, De Los Reyes, Olayres and the other Ang Kapatiran candidates stood before the altar as Rosales, flanked by Arguelles and Tobias, gave his blessings for them to enjoy good health, remain steadfast and continue doing good.

Arguelles later said in a brief interview that he wished the Ang Kapatiran candidates good luck even as he acknowledged their slim chances to win in the elections.

The party has been dubbed the "Catholic" political party. But De los Reyes said it also had many Christian and Muslim members.

He said it was running on a platform of "radical" and "transformative" politics that would abolish the graft-ridden pork barrel system, do away with entrenched political dynasties, impose gun control, and "remove all forms of gambling."

"We are introducing prophetic politics, something that is radical and controversial and requires self-sacrifice," De los Reyes said.

"And for that to happen, we must do the opposite of what traditional politicians are doing," he said.

Dynasts

De los Reyes said he and Olayres, a lawyer, were victims of political dynasties but were determined to fight not the members of the dynasty provisions in the 1987 constitution if they win.

"We come from dynasties. I'm a nephew of [Sen. Richard] Gordon. I'm a Gordon. He is a Olayres," De los Reyes said.

"But if anyone is to make a sacrifice for the country, it's us who are in power now. Even if the implementing rules and regulations of the antidynasty provisions of the Constitution are put in place and we are swept away, it would be OK for us," he said.

De los Reyes' parents are the late Jimmy de los Reyes, who served as president of the Council of the Laity of the Philippines for nine years, and Barbara Gordon, elder sister of Senator Gordon and Olongapo Mayor James Gordon Jr.

A product of Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University, he obtained a degree in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, reputed to be one of the most orthodox Catholic universities in the United States.

In 1993, he taught philosophy at the then Center for Research and Communication (now the University of Asia and the Pacific). He ran for and was elected councilor of Olongapo two years later, but did not seek reelection.

He completed a law degree at Emilio Aguinaldo University in Baguio City in 2005.

In 2007, De los Reyes emerged the lone winner of Ang Kapatiran, again as Olongapo councilor. He chaired the city council's committee on human rights and filed a number of graft cases against certain local officials.

He and his wife Dunia Valenzuela have three children.

Senatorial slate

Ang Kapatiran's senatorial slate is also studded with celebrities. Sri Krishna David, lawyer Jo Aurea Imbong and Justice Bender, commissioner Adriano Ilo, Comelec Regional Director Reginald Tamayo, educator Hector Serrano, and former United Nations executive Manuel Sakkabasa Jr.

"Many are telling us, 'You don't have the money. You don't have the money.' We have the money, but we don't have the billions that our enemies have. If they say that billions are needed to win, then let us forget about changing our economy," De los Reyes said.

Outside the Comelec office, some Ang Kapatiran members donned wrestling masks in honor of Cely's Marathon Festival with the slogan "Vote in Costume Good," "Vote out graft and corruption," "Vote in government."

Ang Kapatiran fielded three candidates in the 2007 Senate elections. They all lost, but each garnered an average of 800,000 votes.

"We're coming back with much passion. We believe and we have hope that Ang Kapatiran will really make an impact on Filipino politics," De los Reyes said. With a report from Inquirer Research

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Even macho mayor appalled . . .

frontpage A1

cases cited by Commissioner Henedina Razon-Randolf in denying Ang Ladlad's petition for accreditation.

Comelec Chairman Jimenez, the Comelec's own spokesperson, expressed a contrary position to the ruling denying Ang Ladlad's petition to run as a party-list group in the May 2010 elections.

"On a personal note, I hope [the ruling] will be revoked. And I have confidence in the Comelec. And it will see the light," he told reporters yesterday in Manila.

Jimenez disagreed with Nograles's earlier quip that there were already gays in Congress and that they were in fact "overrepresented."

"I believe that the LGBT [lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders] community is in fact marginalized [and] underrepresented, and that the country would benefit from hearing its voice [in Congress]," he said.

DUTERTE

'Is that a problem?'

Duterte, a lawyer, said the group led by former de Manila University professor Danilo Ramos should take its case to the Supreme Court.

"I'm very much willing to handle a case to be filed before the Supreme Court. I think they should go to the high court and seek a ruling there," the Davao City mayor said yesterday in his weekly TV program "Gikan sa Masa, Para sa Masa."

Addressing Perez, he said: "You are lucky because I would have been the first one to lead protest actions against you had I been gay — And what if I am gay? Is that a problem?"

Perez, who heads the Comelec's second division, had said Ang Ladlad advocated "immoral doctrines" that included "homosexual relations with individuals of a different gender, of the same gender, or more than one gender."

"The advocacy for intimate sexual relations enjoyed that [Ang Ladlad] tolerates immorality, which collocates religious beliefs. This petition is dismissible on moral grounds," he had said.

Reacting to Perez's remarks, Duterte said: "That statement is bigotry at the highest order. You cannot deny representation to any group. Who are you to deny them? Don't showing your prejudice against them. If Filipinos want to fill Congress with gays, so be it."

'This world needs gays'

The mayor pointed out that gays had proven their worth in a class bursting society and should not be judged on the basis of their sexual preference.

"For as long as they have the capability to lead, [they should be allowed to take part in the political system]. And this world needs gays. Look, when your wives need to look beautiful, they run to gays for help," he said.

He added that Ang Ladlad's rights were "embodied in Section of expression," and that the Comelec position "is not a good policy of the government."

Ang Ladlad has asked the Comelec to reconsider Perez's ruling.

According to Jimenez, the ruling is in violation of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, which states that "the ideal of free human beings enjoying civil and political freedoms and freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his civil and political rights, as well as his economic, social and cultural rights."

Public hearing

Jimenez said the Comelec en banc would soon hold a public hearing on Ang Ladlad's motion for reconsideration.

"They'll set a hearing and probably they're already ruffling it off and deciding who should recite the decision. We will announce this soon," he said, adding:

"This is a very crucial issue and I don't think the Comelec will take its time. We will act on this with dispatch."

But Jimenez defended the Comelec second division from accusations that it had injected religious doctrines into secular matters.

"It did not use faith. The decision was based on the appreciation of the social standards, on what [the constitution] felt were the prevailing moral standards.

"The use of Bible quotes was just to bolster the arguments about social norms. [The second division] was saying that this is our social culture because of these [religious beliefs], and therefore ..."

Nevertheless, Jimenez said gays were a marginalized group and that they had a right to run for Congress as a party-list group.

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OPINION

'Impossible offense'

WE DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A PRODUCT OF THE cleverness of politicians or the stupidity of lawmakers. But with the start of the period for the filing of the certificates of candidacy (COCs) in the May 2010 elections last Nov. 20, the ban on premature campaigning has become even more ridiculous.

The proliferation of posters, tarpaulins, print ads, infomercials, etc., trumpeting the virtues, achievements and civic causes of politicians has raised a debate on whether it is legally permissible for them to engage in election campaigns or partisan political activity before the campaign period starts. Which is really premature campaigning prohibited by Sec. 80 of the Omnibus Election Code (Republic Act 9003) that says: "It shall be unlawful for any person, whether or not a voter or candidate, or for any party, or association of persons to engage in an election campaign or partisan political activity except during the campaign period." Sec. 79(b) refers to "election campaign" and "partisan political activity" as any "act designed to promote the election or defeat of a particular candidate or candidates to a public office." Who believes politicians claiming that these posters, tarpaulins, infomercials, etc., whatever the messages, are not meant to promote their election?

EDITORIAL

But Comelec officials say only candidates can commit this offense because RA 881 Sec. 79(a) defines a candidate as "any person.... who has filed a certificate of candidacy "In other words, our easy-do-what Sec. 80 prohibits, which is to promote his candidacy outside the campaign period (for next year's elections, from Feb. 10, 2010 to May 8, 2010 for presidential, vice presidential and senatorial bets; and from March 26, 2010 to May 8, 2010 for congressional and local bets), but once he officially becomes a candidate, he cannot do it anymore until the campaign period begins.

The recent Supreme Court decision in Pereira vs Comelec, upholding the ban on premature campaigning by a very slim 8-7 majority vote, only added to the debate instead of resolving the question. One view holds that premature campaigning is now an "impossible offense" because of an amendment to RA 881 in RA 9369, which says, a person who files his certificate of candidacy "shall only be considered a candidate at the start of the campaign period." Election lawyer Romulo Macalintal says the Comelec cannot apply the Pereira decision yet because there is a motion for reconsideration and it is not yet final and executory.

In fact, the Pereira case is a landmark decision that has raised a lot of eyebrows. Given that two more justices are going to retire soon, some legal experts like the constitutionalist Fr. Joaquin Bernas, SJ, doubt if the decision would hold for long.

Comelec Chair Jose Melo has admitted that Comelec officials might find it hard to pin down candidates for premature campaigning. When it comes to premature campaigning, he said, the rule of thumb is, if there is no solicitation to vote, there is no problem.

But the ban on premature campaigning was adopted supposedly to curb excessive campaign spending and, in the words of the Supreme Court, "to level the playing field between the popular or rich candidates, on one hand, and the lesser known or poorer candidates, on the other." Instead the limited campaign period benefits the popular because it gives the lesser known hardly enough time to introduce themselves to the public and sell their platforms. This explains the success show biz people as well as political dynasties enjoy in political contests. And as shown by the plethora of posters, tarpaulins, infomercials etc. that have been coming out even before the campaign period started, Sec. 79(a) gives the moneyed and those in power, with their vast resources, a window to skirt and frustrate the intent of Sec. 80.

From Melo's assessment it looks as if the Comelec finds enforcing Sec. 80 an almost impossible task. Thus, people cannot expect even a brief relief from the eyesores that assail them wherever they may be, whether at home watching TV or in streets draped with posters and tarpaulins of politicians. Congress might as well just scrap this particular provision of the election law, and come up with new legislation outlawing the visual pollution.

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Grinding 'em down

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"EXAMPLE IS THE SCHOOL OF MANKIND," parliamentarian Edmund Burke wrote. "They will learn from no other."

Judge Celia Librado's cohorts in the lower courts document how the forces register ten notch-wins that ousted President Ferdinand Marcos and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. They're examples of first-rate investigative reporting. Journalists and mass communication students have another model to learn from.

Mercado's work is critically relevant. "We're moving towards the new-improved culture of a journalism of assertion, rather than restitution," Harvard University's Bill Kovach writes. "The new journalists (present) to go on with the story before going through the discipline of editing."

"Journalism of unfiltered assertion" is the alternative model. "It (won't) separate fact from spin, argument from innuendo. It won't tie high a cost from enemy ... ruthless request for facts remains journalism's most enduring strength."

The bygone published Mercado's columns—"fortified claims" to "Deep penetrating search"—from October through early November this year. They probe into the P50-billion Sandiganbayan Civil Case 008. The multi-billion research displays "ruthless respect for facts."

Ten terse blurbs to mangle a P110-million penalty letter of credit on March 16,1977. That was "a Saturday," Mercado wrote with an eye for the telling detail. Monday Tan had P130 million on hand. The "P90" angle footnotes that there was P600 million. Another damning detail.

The dossier had 68 percent stake in seven Tan firms, Imelda Marcos testified. However, "Tan never delivered the shares of stock to FM's estate in accordance with the deed of assignment." Tan's microphone of wealth morph into modern's custom-tailored windfall following "People Power"!

The careful authentication reflects journalism's First Commandment: "Thou shalt check, then recheck, your facts." Thanks to Mercado, our news vandals can't hurriedly cheker up on them. "That lone bottle peddler" she once dubbed Tan.

The columns go beyond trashing historical caricatures. They reveal that the Arroyo regime shamed the Marcos Tan corruption. Today any figure, "other than such battered meat"!

At this month's center stands Marixino Tuazon-Tan, Lao's brother who served as "financial conciliator" for decades. "Tuazon-Tan knows where all the bodies are." He allowed in sign in return for immunity, as did earlier other Marcos cronies. Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera, Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio reject-ed the offer.

Sycophants ironical outbored PCGG lawyer Catalino Castanilla for painstakingly gathering the evidence. If Tuazon-Tan testimony is declared not confidential, PCGG's Ricardo Abcede patently insisted. Earlier, this commissioner was on a line why the public bonded deficolors when he partied with defendant Imelda.

"Why does Devanadera want to lose the case against Tan?" Mercado wondered. I'd ask the justice secretary first, of course. But, then that'd be Devanadera too.

Besides one of Cheloadonian shames Desiderio Fie was dismissed for filing cases rigged to hurt Cheloadonian. Mercadeina Desiderio is an "Arroyo-Tuazon-Tan debtor," retires say. Ethanoy appears itself as a hero.

"What will the President (Macapagal-Arroyo) do?" Seeking—except probably appoint Devanadera to a Supreme Court crammed with her appointees. PCGG's Sabio? He's busy donating (reducing with his family, all seen for-eigner. Who knows the rule?

"You journalists live in the cruddy-based community" a senior official told editor Bill Kovach. "That's not the way the world works anymore. We create our own reality ...We're history's scenes .... And you'll just ready what we do."

Yes, today's generation is empowered by technology to instantly tap into wells of information," Kovach said at Boston University. "You are challenge history's scenes. To survive you must ask: is the information verified? ... Help us learn the new role of citizen journalist and participants of reliable information."

How many Filipinos are potential citizen journalists?

Worldwide, eight out of every 10 persons on social networks, like "YouTube," "Twitter," or "Multiply," are Filipinos, Jose Pavelen of Inmet Communications (ottoes) says. And 70.4 million 10 years left cellphones.

Will 70.4 million journalists verify facts, first that's president Jose Garcia asked a Cebu Press Freedom Week session. A columnist like Amando Doronila does. Or will we have 70.4 million "Ricardo Abcede's"?

Tomorrow's "citizen journalist" must be the "gatekeeper of reliable information" if new media is to be a force for reform and service. And work by investigative journalists like Mercado, Mabel Mangaliag of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism or Former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, among others, set the parameters for this new tool.

Alas, an unbeliever has yet been found for journalism of integrity. Thus, the late dean Claudikey of Financial Times would drill into cub reporter the pig Latin maxim: All Hogwinner Gardworkers. "Don't let the bastards grind you down."

(Email: jmercado@email.com)

By default

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WELL, THE OTHER MANNY ROSETTES IS him early enough. Manny Villar descended on Manny Pacquiao's training camp in Baguio before his fight with Miguel Cotto, which put him into a row with Freddie Roach. Roach had wanted to depart Baguio before the storm struck, but Pacquiao decided to wait for Villar instead. At cross in his, to Roach's consternation. They had elected verbal tussle. It isn't clear who won.

I laughed at the thought that if Pacquiao lost the fight with Cotto, Villar would get it from the public. Certainly his opponents would not pass up the chance to deny the public's attention to it, even if in jest. In this country, jest has always proven more powerful than gist. "Bondo' kot, bondo talay." ("The breaking jokes/ties.")

It was a gamble, and to pull off Or at least, Villar wants to make sure it does. He is securing the services of Pacman to gobble up support for his flagging candidacy.

Will Pacquiao agree? Say Mody Should Senator-Hot expr shaking in their boots? Impossible at a single bound.

First, will Pacquiao be able to answer his popularity test political dues? Well, of course he was TKO'ed by will o' the wisp Election Assistance in South Cotabato in 2007, which had pundits declaring that popularity no longer decided the outcome of Philippine elections. Really. Had Pacquiao run for a national position in 2007, he might have won. Popularity matters the world in national elections, logistics do in local ones. Pacquiao's mistake was the same mistake Rudy Fernandez made in 2008, running against Teresa Aquino-De Ocampo for mayor of Quezon City. The Aunt-in-Law Antidote still not be-ran over by popularity in their turf.

More importantly, Pacquiao was not the b-tam/demigod/offspring of Zeus then that he is now. The things learnt post-bout spectacular, it has been qualitative. Pacquiao hasn't just become more articulate, he has become more the heart of the world, producing backward ripples of transient proportions. After his demolition of Ricky Hatton last May, I scoffed at the suggestion that he run for congressman again. Why compromise? He should run for president, I said. I didn't mean it entirely in jest. Given how big he was, how popular in the field was, and how determined to stay GMA was, I thought it not a bad idea. As the very least, it would make sure GMA disappears...hell would have no fury then fiction scorned. (Senator would even a spoil in the bottom then.) At the very least it would show up Philippine politics for what it very is/are.

Pacquiao has gotten even bigger today.

Arguably, his popularity hasn't done GMA much good. Despite his reputed endorsements of her, her ratings continue to plummet. There are limits to the transferability of popularity, or its ability to stem the tide of decimation.

Will the same thing apply to Villar? Well, before Noynoy came into the picture, and notwithstanding the furor over CL, Villar was routinely topping the field. The Senate hearings seemed taking them well on him, even after his "Ignorance is bliss" moment. In the latest Pulse Asia survey, "Ignorance is bliss" had turned into "I'll at 14th," which threatened to drive the thing like a nail into many consciousness. So he might have been easier for Dupino to carry that that was before he took in Lacson Legarda as running mate, with all the unsavory connotations of "mate," having clung as well to his affiliation with the ever-ill-fated Lakas-Kampi-CMD, which added more meanings to the word "drone," to keep painting his image darker by the minute.

Will Pacquiao be able to bring light to that dark? Has never known, brain of Dan Brown knows enough about knowledge details.

That brings us to the second thing. Will Senator Mar be able to connect with Cotto?

Theoretically more than manner, even coach the opposition. As Aug. 7 proved all over again, there is only one champ in Philippine politics, and that is Erap. That is the one thing that has gripped the imagination of the Pinoys, that is the one thing that has brought down the filthy weather and Gems of the political ring, who were Marcos and Erap, and that is the one thing Noynoy has. That is the one thing that brought him his numbers even before he climbed into the ring. The content has (or has't been, as I've repeatedly said, as Erika masquerading as an election.

The survey is but should be as this other bout, or the Manny-Leon camp. January and February are "Erap months," January being Erap II and February being Edsa I. Senator doesn't even have to campaign severally. Any reference to "Edsa" or the "Edsa spirit" is a natural pitch for him.

That here's the busy big's tab.

Edsa is Noynoy Mar's biggest advantage, but for the strangest reasons, that is not the one thing they want to hang on, or burnish into a raging flame, for the strangest reasons, their biggest advantage is the very thing the popularity of unsavory characters going to the other side—each ex-Erap, who might eventually abandon his presidential bid—is in try to win those unsavory characters to their side. It is to not see that the threat to its he's a gift because if the unsavory characters come together, it makes the contest between them and other camp infinitely starker. Encouraging those who've already thrown their lot with them to say, "Magsama-sama na sila, bata kami dito." It is to not see that by "encouraging" the other camp that way, it has to but encourage themselves, crowding off its own unsavory characters to make room for them. Encouraging those who have already thrown their lot with them to say, "Magsama-sama na kayo, sa hindi na lang kami."

It is to not see that that exercise in addition and subtraction is really an exercise in killing your cause from two pathologies. Compact/Drag exercise to add: "Bata'ot ang Edsa?"

As said Pacquiao's popularity win against Ed-ca?

By default, yes.

Game na

POLITICAL TIDBITS
Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH DELIVERED BY Lakas-CMD-Kampi presidential candidate Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro last Thursday at the PICC was perhaps the most naked of its kind in this country. The first part was a lofty declaration of his catechism of governance, enshrining it mainly on the basic tenets of Christian democracy—belief in God and the intrinsic value of each human being and his rights vis-a-vis the need for the good of the whole, the primacy of the family as the basic unit of the polity, the environment and of solutions shipt. Listening to it, I reused now-Lakas Secretary General Francis Pangilinan that it sounded much like a last farewell. Static of the Puritan Address, given by Governor John Winthrop to the Puritans before they left Europe for the New World to establish a model society. Pangilinan had apparently liked Teodoro's stance on moral issues as a way for this nation to achieve First World status, since this was a rejection of the ill-spun "pasaway" mentality. Teodoro has broke-smoking excellence as he embodies it in his own academic record: 1985 bar topnotcher, 10 college of Law deans award for excellence and a master of law from Harvard.

* * *

Teodoro anchored his battle cry of steadiness as the right of every Filipino in a good and sound education, specifically having a college diploma in every home. Those it would basic for this achievement, Teodoro said, Credit Card and I had several interviews with Magsaysay awardee Antonio Alip, often called the "Abakeneral Sensei" of the Philippines for his pioneering efforts in the field of technical-vocational entrepreneurial organization here. Alip stressed how having even one member of a family attain a college education changes the standard of living of the entire family. Affordable, tax-wise, tuition would help achieve another one obtain an education, and so on.

* * *

From his formal, SONA-like speech, Gibo descended to the level where he began campaigning prior to mass trips all over the country in Filipino, in a more relaxed and intimate manner, as though he were addressing 30 instead of 3,000 assembled. It was the town hall Qué of campaigning entailed to

more political pundits customarily opine that campaigns will hell a value of death. An activist said it shows his deep sense of self-worth and character. But if GMA was known to most boos, that town hall address produced an even more incredible effect on the Lakas group. For many of its members it was their first real contact with the low-profile candidate and his running-mate Edu Manzano. Given Gibo's late survey ratings, high-profile deserters from the party, a media bent to talked the administration and leadership controversies, there has been demoralization and uncertainty among members. But what they saw and heard from Gibo at his political debut incited to have inspired them. As a political observer told me, everyone felt they had found the candidate they could be proud of and campaign for. It was, as Manzano put it, game on for the party. Teodoro called the "new Lakas."

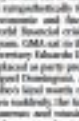
* * *

Last Sunday evening Cecile Alvarez and I interviewed on our radio program Kontrapunto and Ben Evardone, the spokesman of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and secretary general of the Liberal Party. Evardone, who recently passed on the reins of power to his son, the young party leaders on their second term. Investigated as governor of Surigao, and Evardone as the sixth governor of Eastern Samar. They spoke of the new dynamism at the reinvigorated party. Evardone's daughters said that by being handpicked by Teodoro as party president signals the candidate's intention to develop this division's full potential.

Evardone had an interesting anecdote about the 1986-known Lakas presidential list. He recalled that in 2008, Teodoro Senior was list by a strong typhoon that completely isolated the province. Even Ate Boots pilots were landlocked. In short, Teodoro Senior could not call Doña Tessie, also the SECC chair, about their desperate situation there. The next day Teodoro arrived with military crew aboard a C-130 plane of relief goods that he himself piloted. Evardone said that Junior Teodoro cannot forget, and for this, was that Teodoro had unconditionally left the wake of his late father, former SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro Sr., that day to come to their rescue.

A world-class 'Sweeney Todd'

AT LARGE
Alexa Jimenez-Daroy



THERE WAS A SIZABLE AND APPRECIATIVE audience at the Saturday opening show of Repertory Philippines' "Sweeney Todd" at Onstage at Greenbelt 1. The members of that audience understood why. The term "world-class" has been handled about enough not often that it has become a cliché. But this current production of "Sweeney Todd" certainly fits the bill. Linda Ayala Gutierrez and Mirella Lumbreras Fabiana the rest of the cast were up to the challenges of the difficult (in sing) songs and acting demands. Fifteen-works which accompanied the performance were also of world-class quality in timing, and of course the musical, which turns a macabre and twisted tale of a murderous barber and his unscrupulous and wordly partner into an uncongenial mode of the genre, was a pleasure to the ear. Sung-through musicals are not to everyone's taste, witty lyrics and off-beat discourse music.

I had always wanted to watch a full version of "Sweeney Todd" ever since it figured as the object of obsession of the young girl in the movie "Jersey Girl," not otherwise the movie was a big miss. Having first affair with by then-fiancee Jennifer Lopez in a hit role, I looked forward to the movie version, starring Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter, but while I found it fascinating, it proved to be a bloody bloodbath at the hands of Tim Burton's directing style that was not up a score. Depp and Bonham Carter were no singers, and wondered how accomplished performers would handle Sondheim's complex and set arrangements.

Still, we must be grateful for the wonderful musical theater productions that Repertory Philippines has been staging. It is difficult to sell "Sweeney Todd" under our conservative audiences, after all, for the idea of a musical based on the bloody exploits of "The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" is off putting to say the least. But with the performances Saturday night, the audience knew Sweeney Philippines was in basic able to render their production at a challenging piece of musical theater to stage and perform.

* * *

LOCKETT, we have to Simmons and Lumbreras-Tolo performers who have reached the peak of their powers. Simmons may be heavier and feistier than these days, but the added bulk seems merely to add to his stage presence. He commands the stage from the second he sits foot on it, and when he strides around in his barber's coat, he lends the proceedings a cosmic, sexy energy.

I am hoping Ate Boots Fabiana will be a great actor or she imitates. Her Mrs. Lovett is a tale of mice and aging vaginae, and she communicates with the audience with a sure glance, a barter-smile, a shrug of leg.

The chemistry between the two leads are amazing, as in "It Little Prince" as they negotiate the bridal of issues and clever lines of Sondheim with confidence, ease, and humor. Congratulations, too, to co-directors Bibi Reynolds and Michael Williams for skillfully managing the proceedings onstage. I especially liked the device of using a shoot to depict the murders of the hapless patsies, drawers in silhouette and thereby increasing the dramatic tension.

My only complaint is that the stage of Onstage seemed much too cramped, especially when the chorus members, SHE Theater Company, performed a full-size stage treatment. For them, as my daughter, my theater companion, pointed out, the small stage created the perfect sort of a London, a city where demons die and blood rules, closing in on one's memory. [illegible]

* * *

THERE seems more blood in "Ninja Assassin" than in "Sweeney Todd," which I didn't think possible.

Blood soaks up almost every scene in the movie, splattering on walls, flying off the sword arcs, and pooling in the guts of Raizo, the rogue Ninja played by Korean actor-singer-dancer Rain.

There are intriguing possibilities in the story of a

Rizalian advice: 'Putoc kong putoc"

NEWSSTAND
John Nery

"FUTOK" IS EASY ENOUGH TO EXPLAIN TO foreigners, although it is hard for an English-to-Tagalog unionized Tagalog-English dictionary. It occupies over a page of entries and choice sentences. In plain, for instance, makes a distinction between putok and "tuling," which he defines as the sound of an explosion.

For our purposes, we can agree that putok means "explosion." The colloquial Filipino, of course, putok is also and often used to mean, ah, a unit of mental sensation.

Reading Rizal's correspondence, I chanced upon an alternate use of putok that inadvertently involved some curious patterns of translation—for at the same time, she suggested a standard of behavior, a way of coping, for those suffering persecution.

The advice makes sense to anyone who has ever made the difficult but necessary decision: I guess that includes, let me see, one presidential candidate in the November 2010.

The letter, dated Sept. 6, 1890, is from Rizal's editor since Barcelona. The possible point of advice over this issue about the same time his Miguel Lopez was first known.)

His writer, among other things, about another unidentified person, Jaime de Veyra.

"El Paisano, Antonino, Basilio, Silvestre, Tiong-go pinukcod as Member agreeing hopes his country's medic, kami-ri ka-ang hanapil, hindi kami amuki na tuuhi hanggang si si nimalas ang mga "Putoc" kong putoc" ang mga kaibigan ko sa pamahalaan, ang tumayo ay hindi nakatulog na para nang aking hanggad na ay ang mga kaibigan ng aking abuti ang mga ay nilang pulong ng mga kaibigan."

Part of the satisfaction one gets from reading someone else's letters lies in the revelation of personality in literary letters, we can imagine the long life of the artist of an exile (Mariano Ponce) finding the time to write to a friend (Rizal) who is also in exile, banished on account of Rizal's novels). There are the grammatical infelicities, the run-on sentences, even, at the start of the passage, the blithe or

Ano Arcenio Ponce in Rizal's diplomatic language, "Ponce" is "Ponce" in Spanish, "Ponce" in English, and "Ponce" in Tagalog.

The English translation most widely available (even on the Internet) is by Encarnacion Alzona, the most prominent of Rizal's English translators, from "Letters between Rizal and Family Members (1794-1896)." Alzona's book was originally published to help mark the centenary of Rizal's birth in 1961. In Alzona's hands, the passage becomes:

"Paisano, Antonino, Basilio, Silvestre, and Tiong left for Mindoro at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon as exiles. Him and I accompanied them until the pier and we returned there until the departure of the steamer Bisaya on which the poor exiles were embarked. The few of them left gladly, it seemed. At the same time we did not look sad nor did we lament it as we did when Mariong was exiled for the first time. I'm now getting used to the pains of separations, and especially when I think that these exercises and maltreatment would work to the welfare of all the more my faith in everything you said to me is strengthened."

Note the many improvements. As "and" is inserted into the list naming Rizal's brothers and relatives. The politically explosive word "exiles" is appended to the first sentence. The five exiles are described as the "poor ones." Poor gained essential depth in Alzona's version. The "maltreatment" (from "mga maunawa") is qualified by introspection, perhaps to tone down any suggestion of sarcastic behavior ("The few of them left gladly, it seemed"). The English translation also explicitly "shows crutches and limits" to the word "tuling," which is "gladly" and, namely implies "mga mga nang-upang ng".

Above all, Rizal's advice is expressed beyond recognition. Strung's quietly assertive "don't say

Potter's clay

LET ME BEGIN WITH THIS PREFACE FROM THE HOLY Scriptures, found in Jeremiah 18: "And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again into another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it."

In pottery, the potter places a mold of clay on a table and turns it around carefully. Using his hands, he will repeat the process

time until he get the perfect shape.

Hands are important to a potter as they are to us, dear readers. Our hands are tool of communication as we use hands; we talk and express ourselves through them. And just like the potter whose hands make the per-

YOUNG BLOOD
Ana Kristina Macaisa Arce

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below.—Ed.

fect creation, we also hope to make the best. If not the perfect performance for ourselves using our hands. With our hands, we can go places, change lives and make a difference.

I was born deaf, and when my parents discovered this, like most hearing parents of Deaf children, they felt that the only way for me to survive was to learn to speak. So they enrolled me to different oral schools where I had to wear hearing aids and learn how to lip read. I went in four different oral schools. I tried my best in these schools, but still it wasn't easy for me to learn. I was frustrated. The thought of trying it one in a school for the Deaf and they enrolled me at the Philippine School for the Deaf where sign language is used as the medium of communication. I quickly adjusted and started doing well in my academics, and received several awards in grade school. I was also the valedictorian of my batch.

I was an achiever in high school, and even if I transferred to a Deaf private school in my senior year, I still managed to finish with academic honors.

And then came college. During my first year, I was in an institution where Deaf and hearing college students were together in class. I found the experience to be incredibly exciting. But I realized that the barriers of hearing and deafness would exclude me from meetings and group projects, maybe because they thought I could not understand them and communicate with them. I struggled to adjust and tried to show them what I could do, but they never gave me a chance to prove myself. I didn't want to fail—unless I did, I never made this an excuse. I had passion for that course, I tried to think that, maybe, my classmates were doing this because they had big issues and wanted to make things easier for me, but I ended up frustrated and the one trying to understand them. Before the end of the first semester, I switched to a course without a refund, this time, one that offered a program for Deaf students.

Through the efforts of my mother, Vilma, I got into the UE-CCRC School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies (SDEASL in SORAS), not only did I find an academic institution; I also found an environment where teachers and other members of the community understood a Deaf person. I felt like I could fit in, that no one was looking at me as a Deaf person; the word, Deaf, spelled with a capital D, which means that I am identified, not merely as a person who cannot hear, but as someone who is part of the Deaf community, partaking in its unique culture and natural sign language. And with that, I believe that one of the best benefits of education is that it helps us appreciate our identity as people; its attitude toward the Deaf and other persons with disabilities, and that is what SDEASL education gave me.

Our Buddhist education development, Deaf persons, is to promote of dignity, integrity, and with a deep sense of spirituality. We are one being given the chance to become productive citizens of the country.

I'm sure that all students of high schools for the Deaf all wish to go to college. However, very few schools offer quality education and those that do are expensive schools, and most of the Deaf cannot afford to pay the tuition and other fees. Besides, most people—and sad to say even some parents of Deaf children—underestimate the abilities of the Deaf, we cannot succeed in college or will better not to send us to school. For us, going to school is to walk in the park. We often send as only sit and lip read. Limited teachers and interpreters to understand the lessons. Getting an education is a big challenge for us.

And so I am thankful to UE-CCRC for opening its doors and welcoming us despite our disability. We have learned so much from that school and we can now proudly say that we are competent Deaf persons and we now embody the watchtips of Saint Benedict Benedictus.

I especially want to thank Brother Ric for his utmost concern for the Deaf and for his support by increasing the number of slots for Deaf scholars from 20 to 30 students starting school year 2008-2009. My sincere thanks and appreciation to all the hearing students for their willingness to interact with us and for making us feel that we are not "another" group and that we can be active participants in school activities and to give us words of encouragement.

We may be Deaf persons but we can also do anything you can do, except hear. Communicating with our hands should not make a difference. We live in one country, one world. That means we also long for respect and acceptance. We are not a different breed. We want to live in a society that does not treat us as "others" but as equals. We want to be given as many hope regardless of our disability. Please allow us to show what we can do; please believe in us too. Let us prove to you that yes, the Deaf can.

I thank my teachers for painstakingly teaching us all the tools we would need to make us productive individuals and for showing us the way toward excellence and independence. We still have many challenges to overcome in our lives. I thank my parents, Ramon and Vilma, for their patience and perseverance, for their selfless understanding of our special needs, and their unconditional love and care and support, thus enabling me to become what I am today.

We the Deaf students may offer our sincerest thanks to all our hearing teachers and willingly and generously assisted us with our communication needs.

I hope that my Deaf batchmates and I will serve as living testaments to what we can all become despite our limitations. In previous years, only a handful of Deaf students would graduate every year. Today, 26 of us received our diplomas, the biggest number so far.

I am probably the first Deaf Filipino stargate cum laude graduate, and I am not saying this to brag about my achievement. I am humbly sharing this with you to thank God, my parents for molding me, His clay, into a wonderful human being. I believe we can reach our maximum potentials no matter what challenges we face in life, because God is our potter and we are his clay.

Ana Kristina Macaisa Arce, 23, graduated last Dec. 17, 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Applied Deaf Studies from De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde. The article above is an edited version of her graduation speech.

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan is host of Radio Veritas' Kontrapunto and Cecile Alvarez is a broadcaster. Send your comments to belindaolivares@yahoo.com.

Alexa Jimenez-Daroy is a writer and theater director. Send your comments to alexajimenezdaroy@yahoo.com.

John Nery is a newspaper columnist. Send your comments to johnnery@inquirer.com.ph/johnnery.wordpress.com

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Unusual flooding should not happen again

LETTERS

THE TERRIBLE FLOODING OF MARIKINA, Pasig, Cainta, Pateros and Taguig last Sept. 26 should not happen again. Rains alone, during storm "Ondoy," could not have inundated these parts of Metro Manila. I moved to Marikina in 1960, and the sidewalk fronting my house had never been flooded prior to Sept. 26, to 1972, two weeks of rain flooded the low-lying areas in Manila at every prolonged downpour does, but Marikina never experienced the likes of the Sept. 26 deluge. To-be-in-town housing my house, the flood level reached (shoulder) high in the living area—from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The affected locations were sacrificed because diverting reservoir water from Laguna de Bay through the Mangpahan Floodway and the Napindan Control Systems would have flooded Manila, including Malacañang. The damage wrought on our property and the absence on our bodies and minds will remain etched in our memory for the rest of our lives.

Our family lived through four years of Japanese occupation, but never did I expect, since the anguish resulting from the Sept. 26 flooding, I am an overgeneration and the worst life experience has marred my life.

I can only offer some suggestions to avoid the recurrence of the flood disaster:

1. The government has to borrow billions of dollars from the World Bank, European banks and Japanese financial institutions for the reforestation of the Sierra Madre in the regions and Mountains; developing of the rivers from Montalban to the Pasig River; construction of the barge floodway from Laguna de Bay through Binahaan, reopening into Manila Bay aside from dredging the river; dikes should be constructed on both sides of the waterway where the subscriber lived is low lying. One Japanese architect that the leading economists and financial institutions should insist on is that the Philippine government should not play any role in the implementation of the projects, except for a Philippine Legislative Executive Oversight Committee that will assess periodic reports on monthly/milestone in phases. The right contractors auditioned to the implementation of the projects between Laguna de Bay and the Mangpahan Floodway (one Napindan Control System) are eliminated. Local government units will have no say anymore on subdivisions and centers about saving waterways. A public private institutional agency will oversee all allocations and housing plans and projects.

2. In the matter of reforestation, new farming experts from New Zealand and Finland can be tapped to ensure that there are adequate supplies of forest products for construction, paper-making, etc., with the planting of fast-growing trees that are harvested periodically. The services of dredging and flood-control experts from the Netherlands and the United States can also be employed.

—APOLINARIO C. JAMIR
43 Mahakan St.,
Marikina City

Congress urged to pass HR compensation bill

I ENDORSE "CLEAN" INTEREST TAX REPORT that one of the measures scheduled to be approved on third reading by our house of legislators is the Human Rights Compensation bill. (Inquirer, 11/8/09)

At any of the 138,000 victims of the martial dictatorship, if was unanimously implemented as an interim for 10 long months), I strongly urge our legislators to immediately pass the measure. I am certain that many of the claimants have grown old, not to say that many have died without receiving the compensation due them.

As the saying goes: "Sandata po ang dami, kung pulos ang ating kalaban?" (Of what value is the gems, if the heirs to them?)

—CLEOFE ROSE G. DE GE,
Sto. Rosario, Pagsanjan, Laguna

Wanted: presidential candidate that small landowners can support

AS A PLAIN CITIZEN AND A small landowner, I've been in search of the presidential candidate my family will support this coming 2010 presidential elections. Being one of the victims of and, front of small landowners "completely demoralized" by Marcos' land reform 36 years ago, I am now in quandary as to whom to support for president in 2010.

Since (also I four presidents have "come and gone," but not one has shown concern to ease the sufferings of the millions of landowners impoverished by the Department of Agrarian Reform. The assumption of Tita Cory to power gave hope to all landowners, but then her machinelike Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. "Tinanakot" when Marcos' Presidential Decree 27 left of the land they owned. It was the worst nightmare for all landowners—not to mention the thousands victims.

Of course, we honor Ninoy Aquino's harvests. But even without Edsa 1, the Marcos regime would still end. Enough is enough for the Aquinos. The Manila International Airport, the Film Municipal Coliseum, the P500-bill and many other landmarks in the Philippines have been named after him, although there were lots of other Filipinos who were martyred, yet remain unknown and unrecognized.

—REY BERTEL
3 Ilang-Ilang St.,
St. Bernhard subdivision,
Mesamoyan, Bulacan

Since July 2009, still no pension; why?

MY LETTER ("RETIREMENT SS: scheduling of pension remittances," 10/6/09, 8:28:00), specifically cited the predicament of Milagros T. Sese, surviving spouse of the late Lucian O. Sese, a retired teacher. Ms Sese, mare of my wife, was retired from the business town of Cagayan as a teacher in Sept. for solid tender. Her 4Dbe spouse turned out surgery. It has been empty since July 2009. She did not receive her pension presumably due to her failure to renew her status on Feb. 6, 2009, her birth date.

On Dec. 22, 2009, my wife and I accompanied her to the GSIS satellite office in Daet to renew her status, but we were advised to proceed to the Iligan Calvaral and Sipaca Center where a GSIS mobile van temporarily placed as accommodation all the pensioners in the province.

But until now her ATM account is still empty; hence she is penniless and could not buy the medicines prescribed for her doctor. Even the hunt that the GSIS considers Sese already dead although she is very much alive! Or, shall we say the GSIS management disregard good records and the proper name what it entitled to something as "less impressive" personnel? Or perhaps incompetence? And correct me if I'm wrong, GSIS president Winston Garcia depicted the surviving spouses bait of their monthly pensions in the same manner as her absolutely the 15th-month pension which they had been receiving in the past, alleging that it is not in the GSIS law.

And let's face it. Regardless of the social status of pensioners, the GSIS should treated as them in the necessary assistance considering their near, if not all, of them are already in their twilight years and spend the best years of their lives in the service of government and they did so faithfully, honestly and with integrity.

Sure, in a result of her mild stroke, can hardly walk many she has to be assisted by a housekeeper her grandchildren.

—GUMERSINDO A. FUEGA,
JP Rizal Street,
Barangay Camambugan,
Daet, Camarines Norte 4600

Gil Puyat Extension needs sprucing up

THE GIL PUYAT (TAMBUNTING Buendia) Extension—from Taft Avenue to Buendia Boulevard—should be sprucied up in time for the Asia-Digital Movement meeting scheduled in Manila next year.

This road stretch is a vital link to the Philippine Center of the Philippines complex and to the Makati Central Business District (CBD).

Curbs, framed street lights, an unkempt street island, uneven sidewalks, missing steel railings and many others are inconvenient to people passing by this area.

Pasay City officials and the Metro Manila Development Authority should join hands in enhancing the physical appearance of this major artery not only for the sake of foreign tourists but most especially for the sake of Metro Manilans.

—PEDRO REYNOLDS JR.,
4727 Taylor St.,
Makati City

www.myerap.com

RELOAD HOPE! RESTORE DIGNITY!!!

It is now clear to us. President Estrada's ouster was less a product of popular uprising than of the machinations of irresponsible elites and of hypocritical moralists. On the other hand, the May 1 EDSA 3 Malacanang siege is the poor's indictment of a social and moral order bereft of any sustained concern for the marginalized. Now, many involved in EDSA 2 and the forced impeachment and aborted Senate hearings that preceded it have either apologized to President Estrada or have sought audience with him cognisant of his place in Philippine politics. And with this, Erap's core personality comes to the fore. In his words, he has forgiven those who have wronged and accused him.

We believe in President Estrada's brand of leadership. Despite the many accusations against him, note that not one of his Cabinet members was ever entangled in charges despite the witch hunting of his accusers. President Estrada chose his appointees well. His former Cabinet members have much respect for him. They have stories to tell of how the former president would exact output and performance from them without breathing down their necks. He trusted them because he knew he had the best people to run the government. To date, he speaks highly of them, and them of him.

We submit that President Estrada is NOT GUILTY of the crimes attributed to him. He is unduly being portrayed as a convicted plunderer. His sentence, however, came from a kangaroo court that had no choice but to pronounce him guilty lest the Gloria Macapagal Arroyo presidency is exposed as a sham. President Erap is guilty only of standing by the masses of our people against the dictates of the elite. Hence, **WE BELIEVE PRESIDENT JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA IS THE BEST PERSON FOR THE JOB given:**

1. **His vast experience in public service.** He has over 30 years of public service experience from being Mayor (17 years), Senator (5 years), Vice President (6 years) and President (2.5 years). His record of service is highlighted by various recognitions including the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) in Public Administration award in 1972. Most interestingly, he is the only candidate with experience in the Presidency.

2. **His wisdom and maturity**. With him comes the clear perspective of age and experience. Even at 70, he is still vigorous to be at the helm just as Ronald Reagan was when he first became President of the US at age 69 years and 349 days. More importantly, President Estrada's unjust incarceration has made him far learned than any of those posing as candidates today. His profound insights from his rise and fall in government have only sharpened his forgiving nature. In his meditations in the over 6 years that he was prisoner of the Arroyo regime, he has further honed his views as a person and a public servant.

3. **His solid political base, the people's support.** Always among the top bets in Presidential elections surveys, he has consistently enjoyed high satisfaction and trust ratings despite the accusations and conviction. His endorsements of successful senatorial bets of the opposition last 2007 senatorial elections, his 1998 winning margin over Mr. Jose De Venecia, and his phenomenal crowd drawing ability as shown in his Lakbay Pasasalamat visits all suggest that he has the unflinching support of many our people especially at the grassroots.

4. **His strong political will to resist foreign influence and interest group pressures**. From his staunch stand in 1991 on the US Bases issue, his refusal to commit the government to any sovereign guarantees in dealings with the private sector, to his consistent and unabashed promotion of a reproductive health policy, we glean the characteristic steadfastness of a man with genuine concern for change.

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Burgonia

SC allows gov't takeover of Diwalwal

NBI files raps vs 5 in Antique rape-slay case

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation (NBI) has filed a criminal complaint against five persons in connection with the rape-killing of a 15-year-old girl in Antique in January.

In a complaint filed at the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor in Antique on Friday, the NBI charged Simeon Pedero, 37, a 17-year-old boy and three other unidentified persons for the Jan. 31 rape and killing of Kirsten Mojica.

The NBI, headed by regional director Marlo Alaras, also filed a frustrated murder complaint against them for beating up Mojica's companion, Vincent Dave Delfin.

Mojica was found bludgeoned on the head and half-naked at around 8 p.m. on Jan. 31 in an isolated grassy area in Barangay Funda-Dalipe in the capital town of San Jose in Antique.

She died three hours later at the Angel Salazar Gerardo Memorial Hospital.

Delfin, who was hit on the head but survived, told investigators at first that he and Mojica were ambushed while they were riding on a motorcycle. He said he lost consciousness when he was struck.

Later, however, he said they were at the vacant lot where they were attacked.

When he regained consciousness on one occasion, Delfin told investigators that he saw a man raping Mojica while several others were present. He later identified that man as Pedero.

The 17-year-old suspect was identified through his DNA samples, which matched those taken from Mojica, according to the complaint.

This was the first criminal case where DNA samples were used to incriminate a suspect, according to NBI investigating agent Arnold Dino.

The suspect was earlier placed under the custody of social workers, being a minor, after he had confessed to bludgeoning the two on the vacant lot because of a longtime grudge. But he had denied raping Mojica.

Dino said the investigation and the evidence had indicated at least two other persons in the crime scene.

BORACAY IN NOVEMBER
Boys play volleyball as the sun sets on Boracay.

By Norman Bordadora

THE SUPREME COURT HAS upheld its June 2006 decision allowing the national government to take over the so-called Diwalwal Gold Rush Area, otherwise known as the Agusan-Davao-Surigao Forest Reserve.

In a 46-page en banc decision penned by Associate Justice Minita Chico-Nazario, the high tribunal dismissed a motion for reconsideration filed Southeast Mindanao Gold Mining Corp. (SMM) filed two years ago.

In its earlier decision, the high court nullified SMM's exploration permit that it acquired from Marcopper Mining Corp. (MMC).

It found the transfer illegal since one of the conditions of the original mining permit issued by the government was that it was for the sole benefit of MMC.

Presidential Decree No. 463 also required that such transfer must have prior approval from the appropriate government authority.

"Simply told, SMM holds nothing for it has not secured the requisite mining authority to do the aforesaid mineral haul," the Supreme Court said.

Even if SMM's exploration permit was valid, it said President Macapagal-Arroyo's Proclamation No. 297 effectively withdrew the permit. The proclamation declared 8,100 hectares of Monkayo, Compostela Valley, a mineral reservation and an environmentally critical area.

SEM questioned the constitutionality of the proclamation, arguing that the Charter prohibited the President from excluding forest reserves and proclaiming them as mineral reservations so that power belonged to Congress.

The Supreme Court, however, said the proclamation did not modify the boundaries of the Agusan-Davao-Surigao Forest Reserve since mineral reservations could exist within forest reserves because of the multiple land-use policy.

'Balangay' arrives at Maasin port

By Jun Arnaiz
Inquirer Visayas

MAASIN CITY—THE ISINAN NG Lahi (Entry of the Race), the 3 x 26-meter replica of the ancient boat "balangay," arrived at Maasin port on sunset on Friday as part of a journey aimed at retracing the seafaring feats of ancient Filipinos.

The 18 outrider boats, led by former Transportation Undersecretary Jesus Valdes, left Jagna town in Bohol at 6:30 a.m. on Friday.

The boat, with dominant yellow-and-red striped sails arrived at the Maasin port at around 11:30 a.m. to the applause of about 100 people who have been waiting patiently as it approached.

Valdes and his crew later appeared at a symposium attended by some 250 student leaders at the city council's session hall.

The voyagers will sail to Limasawa Island on Sunday and proceed to Butuan City, where another balangay was being built.

Dr. Ted Esguerra, a member of the team, said the two vessels would be sailing together for the rest of the expedition.

The other members included Leo Oracion and Erwin "Butsoy" Emata [illegible] and several Filipinos to match the Mount Everest summit), Reynaldo Godoy, Carlos Dayondon, Noelle Sitoreedao, Janet Belarmino-Sendoza, Wod Jonelli and Dr. Wilmore Sedanoza.

The voyagers, who figured prominently during the Geronagan tragedy in one of the leaders of the rescue teams, said the sight of several fascinating Cebuhs dashed as the boat entered Maasin made the five-hour voyage from Jagna exciting.

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Other U.S. destinations are also available!

PEOPLE have started to cross through damaged portions of Marcos Highway, and other Baguio routes blocked by landslides, to ship in food supplies by cable. The chasm at Barangay Tony Sur in Tuba town is 60 meters long and as deep as 30 meters. Some resort plots to cut a diversion road blocked to accommodate vehicles.

Benguet town back on its feet

BENGUET, BENGUET—FEDERICO DANDing, barangay chair of Tuneling, had to walk almost a day to reach the plaza here on Sunday in time for the town's foundation day celebration.

Standing in the town's farthest village, from there, one has to pass by deep ravines and rugged mountain slopes to get to the municipal hall.

"I had to pass by three cliffs where I warned to raise my town status for the festivities of our foundation day," Dangling, 60, said.

Like him, the residents joined officials and elders in a cultural feast marking a new kind of life after Kibungan [pop: 15,047] was isolated for weeks as landslides triggered by Tropical Depression "Pepeng" blocked all access roads.

The gathering also served as a form of relief for people who had no means for telephone and fix effects, said Buntenerian Inno Medina, a native of the town.

Days after the typhoon, the supply of rice and basic food items ran short. Power was cut off and radio signals sputtered.

Vegetable farms were destroyed and many homes were damaged.

Left with no option, Mayor Bonito Bimbo had to appeal for immediate assistance.

Thanks to the provincial government and agencies like the United Nations, the town was able to pull through, Godes said.

He said people might have panicked but their culture and strong beliefs had helped them face uncertainty, he said.

"Here, we celebrate," Godes said, as he led the throw traditional dance to the beating of gongs and the solibao (native drum).

On Sunday, both young and old greeted each other as if they had not met for years.

Native rice wine varieties called basinan and sapsap and native pig were cooked. The traditional meal were served.

"Ram binbi" (sweet sprinkles) were tasty watering tastes planted with diapers, one of the town's major products.

Gov. Nestor Fongwan joined the celebration of people from the town's seven villages—Ambiri, Lubo, Mankarsan, Palina, Poblacion, Taggal and Tuneling.

Fongwan thanked this year's rallying the province's annual national festival, due to the deaths and damage caused by Pepeng.

But in the case of Kibungan, Fongwan said he allowed the event to push through.

"I know what you went through. You may not have the casualties compared to the other towns but the disaster was something you had to put an end to," he said.

Kibungan is only 62 kilometers from Baguio City but travel would take close to four hours because the repair of major roads has yet to be completed more than a month after Pepeng struck. Balmar Corbe, Inquirer Northern Luzon

SUBIC Volunteerism:

A bequest from the past, a mandate for the future

In the same way that Spanish cannons and American warships protected Subic in the past, so did Subic volunteers protect an even more precious part of Subic Bay – the Filipino spirit of bayanihan and malasakit.

Today, on the 17th anniversary of the turnover of Subic Bay to the Philippine government, we pay tribute to the thousands of Subic volunteers whose heroism and sacrifices have helped rebuild Subic into a proud showcase of trade and tourism.

SUBIC BAY

Turnover 17th Anniversary Celebration
November 24, 2009

2 PM – 10 OUTSTANDING FREEPORT WORKERS AWARDING CEREMONIES
@ Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center

7 PM – CHRISTMAS IN OUR HEART @ SUBIC BAY
Ceremonial Lighting of the Subic Bay Christmas Tree
w/ JOSE MARI CHAN & SHAH DAMOS
@ Subic Bay Boardwalk

Sore loser Sosa plans Mayel victory protest

IS THWIRD MUDDER LIGHT FLYWEIGHT CHAMPION EDGAR SOSA plans to file a formal protest with the World Boxing Council over his defeat to Filipino Pornel Mayel on Sunday in Glasgow, Maldon. Mayel scored a second round TKO of the ropa who was making the 11th defense of the title he won over Sk-den Brian Viloria. Reports said Sosa's protest will center on the clash's 2 heads in the second round. **Edgar L. Laguardia /Contributor**

Editor: Teddyboy B. Melendrez • Assistant Editor: Francis T. J. Chiluisa

SPORTS

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BOXER

Pacquiao will knock out Mayweather—Roach

By Ray Luarca

ESTRELLA FREDDIE ROACH IS TIPPING TO GET the gusto of Floyd Mayweather Jr. as he'd seem a kink in the American's armour.

While negotiations for the Manny Pacquiao-Mayweather super clash have yet to formally begin, Roach has already predicted victoryfor who he his prized ward if the two clash.

Roach's prediction just may't be ignored.

The Hall of Famer was right on the button when Pacquiao trapped David Diaz, Oscar De La Hoya, Ricky Hatton and Miguel Cotto in succession.

And when he said that Hatton would fall inside two rounds, Pacquiao happily entered the American trainer right.

In an interview with Ilie Scribach of El Nuevo Channel, Roach said Mayweather is fragile and defense-minded because he is afraid to get hit.

"Floyd Money will not him," added Roach.

But Hatton offered a different view.

In an article by Billy Shaw in Britain's Daily Record, Hatton—who was also stopped by Mayweather in the 10th round—picked the American to take over the Filipino ring hero.

"I think Mayweather would win because he's just so good defensively and hard to hit," said Hatton.

Though Hatton admitted he was blown away by Pacquiao's 12th-round TKO of Cotto on Nov. 14 in Las Vegas, the Briton said he would bet on Mayweather unless the fight, touted to be the decade's biggest, pushed through.

Tams, Lions rip PCCL foes

Eagles, Archers open bids tomorrow

By Cedrill P. Tupas

EARLY SURGING AT ANY RATE, OUR EASTern University-sued Ateneo Bridge finished their solid winning ways yesterday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Philippine Collegiate Championship League of the Visayas Sports Arena in Pasig.

Playing their first game since losing to University of the East in the UAAP Final Four more than a month ago, the Tamaraws looked sharp in a 69-59 trouncing of Arellano University.

The Lions, one month removed from their NCAA finals defeat to the San Sebastian Stags, turned their "Sweet 16" showdown with Visayas champions San Sebastian Cortez into a virtual weekend with a 91-80 victory.

FEU will clash with the winner between University of the East and University of Cebu, while San Beda awaits the survivor of the titilpass University of Visayas showdown in the semi round of the tournament hosted by Smart and PLDT.

The Tamaraws eased to 14-point leads in the first half, but needed a fiery finish to hold off the Chiefs, who moved within four points, 45-49, late in the third period.

"We relaxed after our lead to double-digit. I don't" said FEU coach Glenn Capacio.

Sergio's late triple put the Tamaraws firmly in control, 62-49, with seven minutes left.

The Lions overwhelmed the Bayans with their no-fight defense, holding their rivals to 17-of-66 shooting for the entire game.

EARLY STANDINGS
(Points Win, Pct.)
Fri 24—(stats on ss for info)
4 pts — Ateneo vs Ignacio
Ateneo 91

RIC Gruella of San Sebastian-Cortez cuts loose from San Beda's Sudan Daniel for a layup in yesterday's Champions League game. AUGUST SEBASTIAN

Liga Super Leg: MisOr Meteors foil Buddies

By Jun Navarro

CEBU CITY—MISsion Mamandag dished two-digits in the closing minutes to quash the Misamis Oriental Meteors in the thrilling 79-61 victory yesterday over the Pampanga Buddies at the start of the Smart Liga Filipinas Conference 3 Super Leg at the Cebu Coliseum.

Unable to operate at the heavily defended paint, the 6-foot-6 Mamandag delivered all his points from beyond the arc in the last quarter as the Meteors rallied from a 49-50 deficit to close the Smart Buddies.

Rusnah Calasibay scored in 19 points and Elmer Deja added 12 for the Meteors, who also threw a couple of key steals from Mike Morrow at the height of Pampanga's desperate rally in the last period.

Former University of the East Warrior Ilaya Thole finished with 14 points while Allen Haoird and Jonathan Aldave added 12 and 10 points each for the Buddies, who earned the game the slight favorite.

The top team after the single-round 3-peso pay stage will advance outright to the finals while the second-ranked team and the No. 3 squad will dispute the other championship slot.

The tournament is sanctioned by the Samahang Basketbolng Filipinas and sponsored by Smart, Accel, Nelvin, Burlington, Stanbuck, Calcium Free, Gatorade, San Miguel Beer, Asi 11, Cantoc Alcohol, Omega Sua Ether, M Lhuillier Rizalina Padala and Super Cebu owned by Bayop Mercuseba.

The scores:
Meteors (Rusnah 19—Calasibay 10, Deja 12, Jaalon 7, Mamandag 12, Lapuebla 2, Mendoza 0, Cuizon 0, Tagaro 0, Aldave 10, Haoird 12, Thole 14, Morrow 0, Ramos 0, Mangaoang

Garnett lifts Celts past Knicks in OT

Buzzer-beater hands Boston 10th victory

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

NEW YORK—WITH ONE PLAY LEFT TO avert a second overtime, Boston coach Doc Rivers had everything figured out and drawn up. But Paul Pierce, the man everybody figured the Celtics would go to, had another idea.

He somewhat got with Kevin Garnett, who had been shooting horribly at that point.

Garnett responded with a jumper from the top of the key that beat the Brad Daugherty, giving the Celtics a thrilling 107-105 victory over the New York Knicks in an NBA game at a packed Madison Square Garden Sunday.

The Celtics (10-6) bounced a timeout to devise one final play with nine seconds remaining, and while Rivers had already made plans, Pierce wanted to see something else.

He drove to the basket and, when the defense gravitated to him, fed Garnett for the jumper that snapped a promising two-game slide by the woeful Knicks (3-10).

In other NBA games, the Orlando Magic stopped the Toronto Raptors, 104-96; the Charlotte Bobcats swept the Indiana Pacers, 124-109; the Miami Heat whipped the New Orleans Hornets, 102-101; the Phoenix Suns crushed the Detroit Pistons, 117-81 and the LA Lakers whipped the Oklahoma City Thunder, 104-85.

"That just shows the confidence in this team," Rivers told reporters outside the Celtics dugout after the game. "That [play] says a lot about the confidence our players have and says a lot about Paul trusting his teammates to the end, even if KG had been missing that entire shot the whole night."

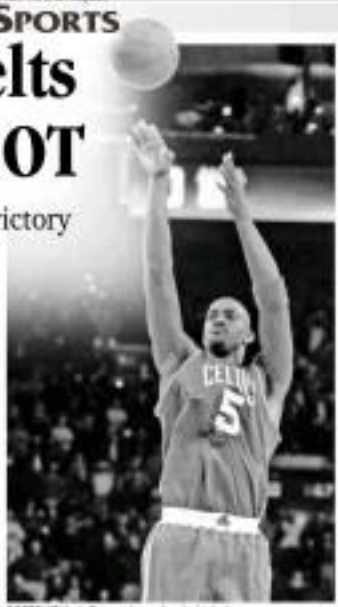
Pierce had every right to go for the gamewinner. After all, he had scored the first seven points in overtime to give Boston a 105-101 lead with three minutes to play and no one would blame Rivers if he so decided to live or die with his superstar's final shot.

"I had another play drawn up for Paul said. Say, I can drive and get it to Kevin," said Rivers.

Before that, Garnett had been missing his pet jumpers from the top of the key badly, including some in a third quarter New York run that put the Knicks in control. When it mattered the most, though, the mean-looking 6-foot-10 bruiser got the job done.

"I took my time," Garnett later said. "Those shots were going in and it follow Paul and he's going to throw a lot of attention and I just had to make the shot."

Pierce finished with 33 points, nine rebounds and six assists to lead the Boston players in double figures.



BIG CATCH Kevin Garnett shoots the winning basket.

Dragons turn back Slingers

KUALA LUMPUR

(14:30—Indonesia Satria Muda Britama vs Thailand Tigers)

THE KUALA LUMPUR DRAGONS rallied off an 89-74 upset over the Singapore Slingers Sunday night that left the idle Philippine Patriots with the sole lead in the Asean Basketball League Sunday night at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

Filipinos import Rudy Lingganay knocked in a triple-double (11 points and had six rebounds as the Dragons who gained the Slingers in second for the first time at 5-2, just half a game behind the 6-1 record of the Patriots.

Tigers over Barracudas

In Thailand, American reinforcement Chris Briggs collected 27 points, 14 boards and three steals to lead the Tigers to a 77-60 victory over the Brunei Barracudas since Sunday at the Nonthaburi National Stadium.

Cameroonian Chris Kaster came through with 20 markers and eight rebounds for the Dragons, who grabbed a share of third with Indonesian Satria Muda Britama at 3-4.

Lingganay along with other Filipino imports Jeff Bandrigan and Reed Hagaman, teamed up to give the Dragons an 89-65, in the final quarter.

The Patriots will clash with the Tigers, who conquered to 2-4, on Dec. 1 at the Yuanta Sports Arenas in Pasig City. —Jeannine B. Pago

ATP finals opener: Federer, Murray up

LONDON—ROGER FEDERER BLAZED past Fernando Verdasco after an early scramble on Sunday while Andy Murray reached the start of London's five-year hosting of the ATP Tour Finals with a three-set victory over Juan Martin del Potro.

Swiss maestro Federer, looking to regain the year-end top ranking after being overthrown by Rafael Nadal last year, dug himself out of trouble in wit, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1, and joke Murray as the top of Group A in the season-ending showpiece.

FEDERER Flies on court

World No. 1 Federer was top billing for the evening session at the spectacular 02 Arena but lost his opening service game to love and opened 15 errors in the first set as Verdasco threatened to create a shock.

He then survived a crisis at 5-5, 0-30 in the second set, breaking a sigh of relief as the left-handed Verdasco went agonizingly wide each a forehand—a nine-shot confidence by a blowhole to play accompanied by thumping heavy boast-aimed effort.

Murray achieved a barnstorm comeback by US Open champion Del Potro to claim a 6-3 3-6 6-2 victory. Reuters

Bakbakan '09 finals get going

THE SEMIFINALISTS IN THE SEVENTH LEG of the 2009 Bakbakan 10-Ong National Derby kids off today at the Araneta Coliseum featuring best with scores of 4, 4.5 or 5 points from last Sunday's semifinal.

Today's battles are actually meat for anyone up homers, unless the undefeated finalists of the Drs. 3 finals suffer losses.

Among the grand finalists are Rizal Gamefowl Breeders Association's Bay Rooster Cigarette, Davao Association (Habagat), Bay Amp and Fumetsers Siesta (KBZ2), Dennis Baleos (DBS), Claudio Carlos (San Carlos) and the BSB entry.

Phinma Int'l junior netfest under way

THE PHINMA INTERNATIONAL JUNIORS Week 1 Tests off today with a talent-laden field slashing for top honors in the boys' and girls' divisions at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Australian Open junior doubles champion Francis Casey Alcantara heads the local challenge in the week-long tournament.

Taiwan's Finals Cheng-Feng, Thailand's Nuttanon Kadchaponsa and Chinese Hu Gao are the top-seeded foreigners.

SPORTSWATCH

500 seeing action in Arnis Encounter

ABOUT 500 WARRIORS REPRESENTING THE CREAM OF LOCAL arnis fighting are competing in the annual Arnis National Encounter on Nov. 27 to 29 at Intramuros.

Elimination is in Jiujo and Full Contact is slated Nov. 27 and 28 at the Philippine Arena in Pasig, while the championships exhibiting the said day at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall.

Arnis Philippines president Raymond Dizon said tournament winners will represent the country in the Asian International Encounter in Manila and other international competitions next year.

Bonzo, Dysangco retain roller racing titles

MARC JULIUS BONZO SEPT 400 PROFESSIONAL RACE OF THE DAY, won in the same manner Philippines Finals 'n Rollin' Tour held at the San Miguel in the Bay area of the Mall of Asia over the weekend.

The son of former national cycling champion Modesto submitted 23:06.0 minutes, just like simulated MPC metric distance meets beat-breaker Mike Calabia, who finished 23.0s.

Former national doubles and veteran SEA Games campaigner Anabelle Dysangco also kept her crown with a time of 14.03, nearly a second faster than Marilisa Wick's 14.75.

Sampson impresses Toroman

By Jane Navarro

JIMAL SAMPSON WENT THROUGH A three-hour workout with the Texas-Gilas Pilipinas national team and Serbian coach Rajko Toroman liked what he saw.

The 6-foot-11 former NBA journeyman will now undergo a series of medical tests on the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas expressed interest in having him up in a naturalized player for the national team.

"He is a legitimate NBA veteran who coach Rajko describes as a pure center," said SBP executive director Noli Eala. "He's simple but a very good defensive player with excellent post moves, mainly when we need."

Though not the flashy type, Eala said the 245-pound Sampson, 36, emerged and more seasoned than the 6-foot-11 Gil Giles, whom the SBP released last week due to center behavior and injuries.

During the Gilas practice, Sampson demonstrated the paint and smartest every shot the 6-foot-11 Greg Slaughter tried to make.

Pag-IBIG Fund

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF Y2010 CORPORATE UNIFORM FOR ALL QUALIFIED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE FUND

The Home Development Mutual Fund, through its approved Corporate Operating Budget for the year 2009 intends to apply the sum of **Fourteen Million Two Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Pesos (P14,292,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of "CY'10 Corporate Uniform. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The Home Development Mutual Fund now invites bids for the Supply and Delivery of "CY2010 Corporate Uniform." Delivery of the items is required within sixty (60) calendar days upon receipt of the approved Purchase Order. Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BAC-GS Secretariat, Procurement Division, General Services Department, Room 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting November 24, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on November 25, 2009 from the Procurement Division, General Services Department, Room 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS) at www.philgeps.gov.ph and the website of the Home Development Mutual Fund BAC-GS at www.pagibigfund.gov.ph, provided that Bidders shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Home Development Mutual Fund will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on December 1, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the Amel Tadzian Hall, Room 802, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City, which shall be open to all interested parties.

Bids must be delivered at the BAC-GS Secretariat, Procurement Division, Room 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City on or before December 15, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on December 15, 2009, 2:00 p.m. at the Amel Tadzian Hall, Room 802, 8th Floor, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Home Development Mutual Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Messrs. Wilfredo Nacido E. Reyes or Jose Maria M. Diaz at 8477492, 8845815 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at pgsd@pagibigfund.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) FLORENTINO E. ESPAÑA, JR.
Chair, BAC-GS

Billiards takes center stage

BILLIARDS GRABS THE LOCAL sporting limelight again with the staging of the Second World 10-Ball Championships on Nov. 25 to 30 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

The tournament comes on the heels of the recent victory of Filipino pool idol Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the All-Japan 9-Ball Championship where he thrashed countryman Antonio "Tonkla" Gabica, 11-7, in the Third New Arrivals Hall at Aomagasaki-shi, Hyogo, Japan.

Bustamante produced the equalizer feat of 9909,000 in the cash-rich annual event.

"Dear Ajatti, congratulations, Django. You've made every Filipino proud," said billiards luminaries Adriso "Rudy" Paat.

It was Django's second international triumph since last September when he teamed up with the legendary Efren "Bata" Reyes in re-claiming the Derby Cities Inc. 2009 World Cup of Pool title at 888 City North Arena. The highly regarded tiff tandem capped the World Cup of Pool in 2006 during its launching in the Newport Center in Newport, South Wales.

"Although we're old, we are still winning," said Bustamante then. He is 45 while Reyes is 55.

But the past season was a big letdown for Django. He last won a major tournament in January 2007 when he topped the world-class Derby City Classic Master of the Table in the United States.

Bustamante started this year on a bright note. In the last Pangalinga tournament in Baguio City, the billiard legend from Pampanga and Rael Sinchioco of the Metrowide Mister Villas Cup—Bustamante beat world-ranked compatriot Roberto Gomez in most his comeback bid.

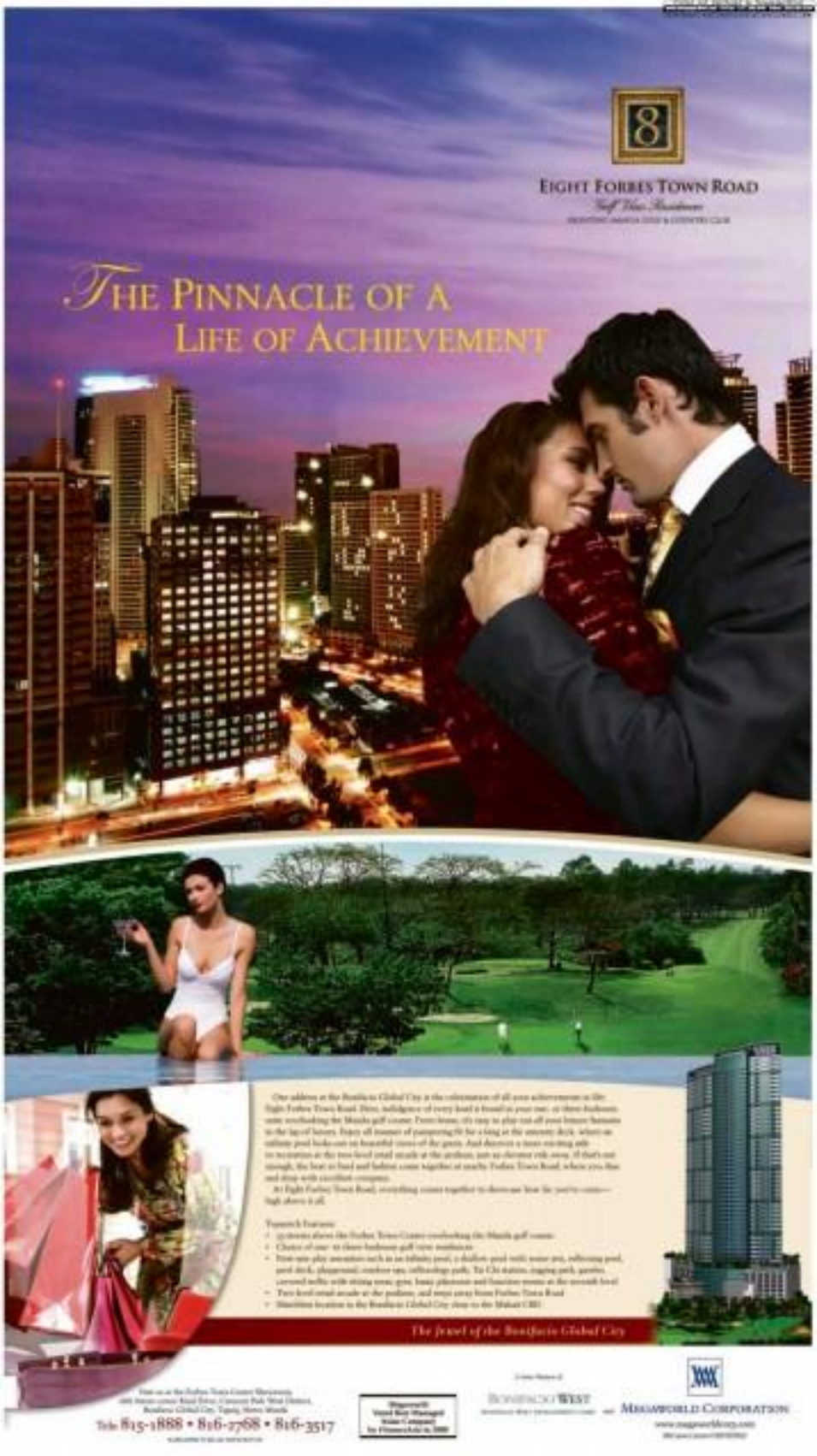
Django is best remembered because of his patience act during the 2002 World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales. In the 10th match against many-time world champion Earl Strickland of the US, a gold medalist Bustamante did not abandon the game even after learning about the death of his seven-month-old daughter in the Philippines.

Strickland won the career-matching match, 17-11, but Bustamante's patience act stood out.

"It's Mahaboba of Rizal Sports, organizer of the Second World 10-Ball Championship, said the event is going to be the toughest tournament of the year.

CLEAN LIVING

Marcelo B. Bolgar



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DID YOU KNOW

In 1602, a total of 13,000 Chinese immigrants were massacred by Spaniards who envied the rapid growth of their commerce.

Cyril L. Bisnakmin, Inquirer Research

PRC finds Kho guilty of immorality

Doctor may lose license unless he files appeal

By Jeannette I. Andrade

CONTROVERSIAL COSMETIC SURGEON DR. Hayden Kho Jr. may be permanently stripped of his license to practice medicine after the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) yesterday found him guilty of "committing immorality as well as dishonorable and unethical conduct."

KHO

In an interview, PRC legal and investigation division chief Pheerson Silamale told the Inquirer that the commission had ruled that Kho's act of videotaping his sexual encounter with actress Katrina Halili—without her consent and knowledge—was immoral, dishonorable, and unethical in the practice of medicine.

Mamale said the PRC's finding could result in the permanent revocation of Kho's medical license.

He added, however, that Kho could still file an appeal. "He will has 15 days to file a motion for reconsideration," Mamale told the Inquirer.

However, while his appeal is pending before the agency, Kho cannot practice medicine, he said.

Asked if there was a chance that the PRC would overturn its ruling, Mamale replied, "It depends [on] when his arguments would be, if there were factual errors committed by the commission in deciding the case. Maybe then his case would be reconsidered."

The petition to revoke Kho's license was based on a complaint filed by Halili, who accused him of videotaping their sexual encounters without her knowledge and consent.

The videos, including some showing Kho in intimate encounters with other women, were later uploaded in the Internet.

Halili said in her petition before the PRC that she wanted to prevent the doctor from preying on other women, who could be his patients.

This is the second adverse ruling against Kho who was suspended on Sept. 2 for one year by the Philippine Medical Association "for conduct offensive to the profession."

He is also facing a malpractice suit against PRC which was likewise filed by Halili. In addition, the National Bureau of Investigation has charged him with sexual violence for videotaping his intimate encounters with the actress.

The case, however, remains pending before the Department of Justice which has formed a panel of prosecutors to study the charges.

Sought for comment, Jenar Garcia, Kho's lawyer, told the Inquirer that her client would appeal the PRC's decision, saying the agency had decided unfairly on the case of the doctor's practice.

"The PRC did not take into account the fact that Kho was not involved in the dissemination of the video and this case [was based on the] 'Pure is no evidence linking him to that," she said.

According to Garcia, Kho was only slightly bothered by the decision since he had relentlessly stopped practicing medicine when the controversy broke out earlier this year.

Helping the Underprivileged

HOW TO SET UP AND MANAGE SUCCESSFULLY AN NGO OR FOUNDATION

SEMINAR: Nov. 25, 2009. 1-5 PM. Topics: Getting Organized; SEC/BIR Requirements; Corporate Social Responsibility; Project Management Cycle Overview; Sourcing Funding; Best practices & techniques; Sustainability

HOW TO SET UP AND MANAGE SUCCESSFULLY A COOPERATIVE

SEMINAR: Dec. 9, 2009. 1-5 PM. Topics: Rules, Policies, Taxation & Salient provisions under the Cooperative Code of 2008; Best practices, tips, techniques & merits in operating successfully a cooperative as a business. Speakers: Atty. Nini A. Santillan, Executive Director, Cooperative Development Authority; Ms. Rina D. Galang, Director & Mr. Rolando B. Coronado, Operations Manager, San Felipe Neri Savings & Credit Cooperative. Our Early Bird Discount deadline Nov. 27, 2009. To register call Yolcan Knowledge Center Publishing 331-6288, 889-7424, 911-5084, 0918.328.0777, 0916.208.9760 inquire@yolcan.net or drop by @yolcan.com.

Both seminars to be held at ROXVILLE HOTEL, 286 EDSA, Mandaluyong City. Limited seats only. Register Now!

Drug sale in prison compound probed

By Nina Calleja

OFFICIALS OF THE NEW BILIBID PRISON (NBP) in Muntinlupa City have launched an investigation into the sale of illegal drugs inside the prison compound after one of their guards was caught trying to smuggle in a kilo of methamphetamine hydrochloride, also known as shabu.

Prison Guard I Christopher dela Cerna, 27, was turned over by his colleagues to the Muntinlupa police after the drugs were found in his possession at the maximum security compound at around 7:15 p.m. on Nov. 18.

Investigator PO2 Salvador Cenera said Dela Cerna remains detained at the city police headquarters.

Two days before the drugs were found in Dela Cerna's possession, a visitor was apprehended for carrying several grams of shabu inside his bag. Senior Supt. Ferdinand Bocobo, NBP executive assistant, told the Inquirer.

Bocobo said a similar incident took place two weeks ago at the medium security compound.

"We are not tolerating the entry of prohibited drugs. We're trying to prevent [drug] sale in the NBP as much as possible," he stressed.

"Our efforts to continuously stop the proliferation of drugs here are still in place. That's why we reinforced closed circuit television cameras inside the compound for monitoring purposes," Bocobo said.

According to him, NBP officials have asked the Department of Justice about the legality of subjecting inmates to drug tests.

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Manhunt on for NBI investigator who shot dead 2 men

By Nitz Calleja

THE MUNTINLUPA POLICE have launched a manhunt for a special investigator of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) accused of killing two of his neighbors last week.

Investigator PO3 Raymund Hemano said they were trying to trace the whereabouts of Saul Hermano who allegedly shot dead Jesus Jr Ortiz and Edwin de "Ding" Ulloga at around 9:40 p.m. on Nov. 16.

Based on a police report, Hermano reportedly got riled when the victims, who were drinking in front of Ulloga's house in Sanawagan Village 2, Muntinlupa City, tattered him for being "under de-seje" (manipulated).

He shot the two men repeatedly and then fled. The victims were taken to the Medical Center in Muntinlupa City where they were pronounced dead on arrival.

HERNANO

A witness, Teresita Lanuza, told the police that the victims were eating and drinking when Hermano walked by. She said the two men teased him for being afraid of his wife, prompting him to shoot them.

But Ivell, Ulloga's wife, told the reporters that her husband was not in the habit of teasing people in the neighborhood.

She said that Hermano was a known troublemaker in their neighborhood.

"Neither Sely nor Ding (Edmardo) had a row with Saul. They did not speak sharply to him or insult him. Saul has a troublemaker. Whenever he's drunk, he would discharge his firearm and shoot at anybody. Ask any of our neighbors," Feydd added.

She said that about two months ago, Jesus handed Hermano a complaint with barangay and police officials against Hermano after the latter provoked a commotion in their neighborhood.

Hermano is now facing charges of murder and frustrated murder with the Muntinlupa Prosecutor's Office.

A check with the NBI personnel division showed that Hermano was assigned at the legal division. Officials in the area are known if he has reported for duty since the killings. With Jeannette I. Andrade

Magdalo member charged with rebellion eyes congressional seat in Taguig

By Jillnor W. Lopez

ONE OF THE SOLDIERS implicated in the alleged participation in the 2007 takeover of the peninsula Manila will file his certificate of candidacy (COC) on Wednesday to formalize his bid for seat in Congress.

Navy Lt. (sg) James Layug, a member of the Magdalo who was charged with rebellion, was granted a one-day leave of absence last week by Judge Elmo Alameda of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 so that he could file his COC.

Layug is planning to run for congressman of Taguig City.

"If you are tired of corruption, poverty and hunger, if you want to achieve your dreams through equal opportunity, if you want a peaceful, progressive and prosperous nation ... let's participate in the 2010 elections and unite as one as we nationwid to choose the right leader who would serve the interests of the people," a message he posted to Filipino on his website jamslayug.com, said.

A classmate of his, Antonio Trillanes IV in the Philippine Military Academy, Layug was arrested and detained for a coup d'etat he his involvement in the Oakwood mutiny in July 2003. He is currently detained at the Philippine National Police Custodial Center in Quezon City.

Layug will be closely guarded by about 20 policemen when he meets with his supporters before filing his COC at around 9 a.m. on Nov. 25 at the convention center of Phase 1, Ep Village, Western Bicutan.

Once he formalizes his bid for a congressional seat, he will be up against incumbent Rep. Henry Dantes Jr., Councilor Arnel Mit and ampalite "Bell" Reyes, son of Taguig Secretary Angelito Reyes, who is reportedly running for Taguig mayor.

DANGER, KEEP OUT
A sign posted by the Marikina City government warns residents against cooking or lighting fires in a garbage dump in Nangka. NOY LUY

RP has many heroes like Peñaflorida

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD make more educator Efren Peñaflorida an example of a living hero in his graduation by his countrymen, many of whom look up to Manny Pacquiao as their only hero.

Peñaflorida won the 2009 CNN Hero of the Year award for starting a "pushcart classroom" among children so they would not join street gangs.

I have many that it was an international broadcast network that discovered Peñaflorida and not our own government or a local NGO.

The country does not lack for living heroes.

We have countless Peñaflorida doing their thing silently or without fanfare.

Among these are doctors and dentists of St. Luke's Medical Center who provide medical missions in poverty-stricken areas around the country.

These top-notch doctors and dentists, who charge high professional fees when in Manila, treat their patients for free when they're on medical missions.

They go without further ado to town upon the invitation of some Mayor or private individuals, and leave just as silently.

They are members of Bagong Pilipinas Foundation, an organization of doctors, dentists and nurses at St. Luke's.

Last Saturday and Sunday, I invited these doctors, dentists and nurses to Tacloban City to conduct a medical mission among the city's poor.

It was my way of giving back to the community some of the blessings I received from the University as its birthday boy. [illegible]

My foundation, RT Lind Santa Rita Foundation Inc. (SRFI), chose Tacloban City because this was where I studied as a junior and senior high school student, the best years in the life of an adolescent.

The doctors, led by chief surgeon Benito Tiongco, treated a total of 1,212 patients: 645 dental patients; 119 ailing children and infants; 366 patients with eyes; and 10 patients with cleft palates who were all operated on.

The RTSRF pays some 200 leading physicians half of the 200 glasses donated by Dr. James Tiu, owner of the Chinese General Hospital.

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

But a two-day medical mission, the number of patients treated was phenomenal while everything was confirmed to an orderly manner, according to a city resident.

In the past, medical missions conducted by other groups were so disorganized that doctors and dentists were able to treat only a few patients, the city resident said.

Dr. Tiongco, a draughtsman, installed order and discipline among the throng that flocked to the gym of Leyte Park Hotel, which was an ejaculation as an aircraft hangar.

As a result, no one in the crowd was harmed.

The 150 medical operations were carried out by Dr. Hi Shawn at the mouths four Ascona Regional Medical Center, a government hospital had state-of-the-art.

The RTSRF invited 14 ophthalmologists or eye doctors from Manila to the medical mission, but they couldn't come because they were barred by local eye doctors from treating patients with cataracts.

That was the mission's only fly in the ointment. The Manila ophthalmologists who didn't allow their fellow eye doctors from Manila to take part in a medical mission in their turf.

As a result, only 18 cataract patients were treated by local ophthalmologists, while those who could have been attended to if Manila eye doctors were allowed to take part.

I'd like to thank the following for contributing to the success of the medical mission: Bay Pharmacy, Dr. Emilia Pedrosa, Dr. Estrella Espanola, Ramon Ang of San Miguel Corp., Lito Tinsay of Lafarge, Pampanga; Undersecretary Antonio Villar; Cebu Governor Pierre Princess Mayor Edward Hagedorn, Jack Enrile, Miss Lim, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Wilson Chua.

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The Supreme Court now invites bids for the following projects:

NAME OF PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET (inclusive of VAT)	SOURCE OF FUNDING
Lot 1: [illegible]	P [illegible]	General Appropriations Act for CY 2009
Lot 2: [illegible]	P [illegible]	
Lot 3: [illegible]	P [illegible]	
Lot 4: Food, Lodgings & other Off Premises for CY 2010 & 2011	P [illegible]	
Lot 5: Pest and Termite Control Services	P [illegible]	

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening. Delivery of the goods/completion of the project is required within thirty (30) calendar days upon the receipt of the purchase order (PO.). The period of contract for the supply of fuel, lubricants and other consumables for the operation of the Chief Justice's official motor vehicle (CY for 2010 and 2011). The period of contract for pest and termite control services shall be for one year (CY 2010).

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract on the ground of non-compliance with its requirements, or any other circumstances detrimental to the interest of the government, as mentioned in Section 41 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (BAC-GS) Secretariat, and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting November 24, 2009.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased starting November 24, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents, in the amount of: Php 500 (Five Hundred Pesos) for Lots 1 and 2; Php 5,000 (Five Thousand pesos) for Lot 3; Php 5,000.00 (Five Thousand pesos) for Lot 4; and 1,000.00 (One Thousand pesos) for Lot 5.

The Supreme Court will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on December 1, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. for Lots 1, 2 & 3; 2:00 p.m. for Lot 4; and 3:00 p.m. for Lot 5, at the OCA Conference Room 2, UP Supreme Court Third Building, Taft Ave., Manila, which shall be open only to prospective bidders who purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (BAC-GS) Secretariat, Office of the Clerk of Court, 3/F Supreme Court Third Building, Taft Ave., Manila on or before December 15, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. for Lots 1, 2 & 3; 10:30 a.m. for Lot 4; and 11:00 a.m. for Lot 5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 19.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

BAC-GS Secretariat
Office of the Clerk of Court
3/F Supreme Court Third Building
Taft Ave., Manila
Tel. No. 554-9531

November 17, 2009

(Sgd.) THELMA C. BAÑAS
Assistant Court Administrator
and Chairperson, BAC-GS

In celebration of Philippine Daily Inquirer's 24th anniversary

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Get a chance to taste all 24 Best Desserts and to attend the food demos to be conducted By Pastry Alliance of the Philippines, Vittoria Coffee and CCA Manila on 4 December 2009 at the Atrium, SM Mall of Asia.

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SEMINARS

10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.	Selling of desserts
8:30 P.M. Welcome Choco Caramel Cake	Chef Sebastien Bacchini of Entrenos
8:35 P.M. Making the Perfect Cup of Coffee	Liz Bernardo Barista Pratima of Vittoria Coffee
8:35 P.M. Mangga Souffle	Chef Dominic Ong of CCA Classic Cuisine
1:00 P.M.	18 inch single crust pre-sit for tartlets
1:30 P.M.	Banana Nut Bread
6:00 P.M.	Awarding Ceremonies
7:30 P.M.	Closing of Dessert Bar

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School last attended: _____

CCA

METRO-BRIEFS

Man killed

A MAN was killed in death-strike sledgehammer after he tried to play peacemaker between two motorists who lived in each other's neighborhood in Barangay Bahan Hills, Quezon City on Sunday night. Jesus Bilocaglay, a resident of Scandinavian Street, died before he could be treated at a hospital. Police have arrested one of the attackers, Dennis Bobilles. Chief Insp. Bernard Oliveros Jr. of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said Bong Dayrit, the man who killed Bilocaglay with a sledgehammer, remains at large.

Jaleel Acosta

Seminar set

THE PDM Knowledge Center Publishing will conduct a seminar on how to set up and manage successfully an NGO or foundation from 9 to 6 a.m. on Nov. 25 at Richelle Inn and Suites, Roosevelt Ave. corner Mindanao Ave. The seminar will discuss the following: rules and regulations governing the set-up of SEC and BIR; private accountability; corporate social responsibility; sourcing funding; technical assistance and in-kind donations. For information, call 02 9828-0867/926-5744/924-0914/0917-5782/0920-5782/09 or e-mail to [illegible]

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence K. Gonzaga

Iran uses death penalty to cow foes, experts say

CAIRO—A FLURRY OF EXECUTIONS AND DEATH SENTENCES in Iran has raised concern that the government is using judicially sanctioned killing to intimidate the political opposition and quell pockets of ethnic unrest around the nation, human rights groups and Iran experts said.

In Iran, where there is precedent for executions to purge in the wake of a crisis, human rights groups said there were unconfirming reports that the trend had emerged in response to the political tumult that followed the June presidential election. This month, a fifth person connected to the protests was sentenced to death.

In the period between the disputed June election and Dec. 1, the spokesperson of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in August, 113 people were executed, according to statistics compiled by human rights groups and Iranian news agencies.

"The regime never expected to see people demonstrate so openly since the election," said Hamidreza Jalaipour, a professor of international affairs at Tehran's Azzahra University. "The executions are intended to frighten them. It is abundantly recorded in that purpose."

Mohammad Ali Abtahi, a former vice president, was sentenced last week to six years in prison "for crimes against internal national security, propaganda against the Islamic republic, insulting the president and creating public disorder," said the state-run Fars news agency, an Iran watchdog reported. He was released from prison on bail, pending appeal. AFP

Thousands of strange creatures found deep in the ocean

NEW ORLEANS—THE CREATures living in the depths of the ocean are as varied and as fiendish as the creatures in Dr Seuss' book, researchers at Louisiana State University and a host researcher on the ocean floor.

Thousands of marine species the sea are unknown to the scientific pitch-black depths by feeding on the snow-like decaying matter that rains down—feces, sunken whale bones. Oil and methane also are an energy source for the bacteria dwellers, the report said.

The researchers have found almost 5,000 new species on top of the 230,000 known. They hope to add several thousand more by October 2010, when the census will be done.

The scientists say they could uncover that a million or more species remain unknown. On land, biologists have catalogued about 1.5 million plants and animals.

They say they've found 3,722 species living in the extreme ocean depths, waters deeper than 3,280 ft.

"The deep sea was considered a desert until not so long ago. It's quite amazing to have documented close to 20,000 forms of life in a zone that was thought to be barren," said Jesse Ausubel with the Alfred P Sloan Foundation, a sponsor of the census. "The deep sea is the least explored environment on earth."

More than 40 new species of coral were documented on deep-sea mountains, along with clues of herbivores and ancestors gardens. Nearly 500 new species ranging from single-celled creatures to large squid were charted in the abyssal plains and basins.

Also of importance were the 170 new species that get their energy from chemicals spewing from ocean-bottom vents and seeps. Among these were a family of "yeti crabs," which have silky, hairlike filaments on the legs.

In the mid-Atlantic, researchers found 40 new species and 1,000 in all, said Odd Aksel Bergstad, an oceanographer with the University of Bergen in Norway who was contacted by telephone in the Azores islands.

"It was a surprise to see so find such rich communities in the middle of the ocean," he said. "There were not even good maps for the area. Our understanding of the biodiversity there was very weak." AP

Bishop asked Kennedy not to take Communion

BAY HORSEHEAD, RHODE ISLAND—A month of harsh words between US Congressman Patrick Kennedy and Roman Catholic Bishop Thomas Tobin escalated when the bishop acknowledged asking Kennedy not to receive Holy Communion because of the Democratic lawmaker's support for abortion rights.

The bishop's attempt to publicly shame Kennedy comes just a few months after the death of his father, Sen. Edward Kennedy. Tobin said in an interview Sunday that he's praying for the younger Kennedy who has been in and out of treatment for substance abuse, and said Kennedy has been acting "brutally."

"He attacked the Church, he attacked the position of the Church on health care, on abortion, on teaching," Tobin said. "And that required that I respond. I don't go out looking for these guys. I don't go out picking these fights."

Their dispute began in October when Kennedy criticized the country's Catholic bishops for threatening to oppose an overhaul of the nation's health care system unless lawmakers included tighter restrictions on abortion, which have since been added to the House version of the bill. Tobin said he felt Kennedy made an unprovoked attack on the Church and demanded an apology.

Since then, their feud has played out in public. Tobin, who has said he might have gone into politics were he not ordained, has written sharp public letters questioning Kennedy's faith and urging his position is scandalous and unacceptable to the Church. Kennedy has said his disagreement with the Church hierarchy does not make him any less of a Catholic.

Two weeks ago, after a planned meeting between the two fell through, Kennedy said he wanted to stop discussing his faith in public. But then he said The Providence Journal in a story published Sunday that Tobin instructed him not to receive Communion. He also claimed the bishop had told diocesan priests not to give him Communion.

Tobin said he wrote to Kennedy in February 2007 asking him not to receive Communion, but never formally banned Kennedy from receiving Communion or instructed any priest not to give it to him. AP

Over 100 icebergs heading for NZ

DUNEDIN—MORE THAN 100, AND POSSIBLY hundreds, of Antarctic icebergs are floating toward New Zealand in a rare event which has prompted a shipping warning, officials said on Monday.

An Australian Antarctic Division photographer said the ice chunks, spotted by satellite photography, had passed the Auckland Islands and were heading toward the main South Island, about 650 kilometers northeast.

Scientist Neal Young said more than 100 icebergs—some measuring more than 650 feet across—were seen in just one cluster, indicating there could be hundreds more.

"It is not every year that residents of a peninsular like Otago catch sight from the seacoast as one and set temperatures rise due to global warming.

"All of these have come from a larger one that was probably 50 miles to also where it left Antarctica," Young said.

"It's done a long circuit around Antarctica and must be fragile now as it is are breaking up and producing smaller ones."

He said large numbers of icebergs had not floated this close to New Zealand since 2006, when a number came within 25 km of the coastline—the first such sighting since 1931.

"They're following the same trades were up toward New Zealand. Whether they make it up to the South Island or not is difficult to tell," Young said.

New Zealand has already issued coastal navigation warnings for the area to the Southern Ocean where the icebergs have been seen.

"It's really just a general warning for shipping in that area to be on the alert for icebergs," said Maritime New Zealand spokesman Ben Henderson.

The icebergs are smaller remnants of the giant chunks torn off Australia's Macquarie Island after recently, including one estimated at 2 km and another twice the size of Beijing's "Bird's Nest" Olympic Stadium.

Young earlier told AFP he expected to see more icebergs in the area if the Earth's temperature continues to increase.

"If the current trends in global warming were to continue, I would anticipate seeing more icebergs and the larger ice shelves breaking up," he said.

When icebergs last neared New Zealand in 2006, a sheep was helicoptered out to be shorn on one of the floes in a publicity stunt by the country's wool industry. AFP

UPDATED: "NEW MOON" Breaks Philippine Box-office Records for 2009

Reports from entertainment newsmakers that "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" has broken all box-office records in the Philippines with an estimated 3-day run of Php 100, 700, 000.

In spite of opening with 330 screens nationwide, huge crowds were turned away due to full theater capacities for the past 3 days.

The must-see event movie is also breaking box-office records in Italy, France, Germany, Canada, Russia, and U.K.

U.K. 3-day weekend box-office estimated to gross USD 13DM.

WORLDBRIEFS

Helium 3 shortage slows program to detect nuke bombs

WASHINGTON—The Department of Homeland Security has spent $230 million to develop better technology for detecting smuggled nuclear bombs but has had to stop deploying it because the United States has run out of a crucial raw material, reports say. The Homeland Security Department had planned a worldwide network using the new detectors, which were supposed to detect plutonium or uranium in shipping containers. The government wanted to buy 1,800 to 1,400 machines, which cost $800,000 each, for use in ports around the world to thwart terrorists who might try to deliver a nuclear bomb to a big city by washington is one of the millions of containers that enter the United States every year. The ingredient needed for the improved detectors is helium-3, an unusual form of the element that is formed when tritium, an ingredient of hydrogen bombs, decays. But the government recently stopped making tritium in 1988. NYT

China families protest mine disaster; death toll hits 104

HUJIANG, China—Relatives of victims of a gas blast at a northeast Chinese coal mine scuffled with police and demanded answers from the owners on Monday, as state media put the toll from the blast in a series of mine disasters at 104. The protest came a day after another 11 miners were killed in a blast at a pit in the southwestern province of Sichuan, Xinhua said. China's visibly-obsessed government is nervous about any public protests, and will be keen to keep discontent under control. China has the world's deadliest coal-mining industry with more than 3,000 people killed in mine floods, explosions, collapses and other accidents in 2008 alone. Saturday's explosion at the mine in Hengyang in the Hunan province of Heilongjiang came as more than 200 miners were underground, though most were rescued. Reuters

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Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. 929-8888/929-8889

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine State College of Agriculture through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites all eligible contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

	Description and Specifications	Quantity	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
Lot 1	Construction of Multi-purpose Building Floor Area: Ground Floor 500 sq.m. Second Floor 500 sq.m. Third Floor 500 sq.m. Total Floor Area: 1,500 sq.m. Location: Philippine State College of Agriculture Diliman, Quezon City Completion Period: 120 calendar days	1	P10,000,000.00
Lot 2	Construction of Gymnasium Floor Area: 1,000 sq.m. Location: Philippine State College of Agriculture Diliman, Quezon City Completion Period: 120 calendar days	1	P8,000,000.00

2. The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Venue/Time
1. Pre-bid Conference	November 15, 2009	
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 16, 2009 to November 30, 2009	BAC Office/PSCA
3. Pre-bid Conference	November 16, 2009	Philippine Conference Room/ 1:30 p.m.
4. Deadline for Submission of Bids	December 15, 2009	PSCA Conference Room/ 1:30 p.m.
5. Opening of Bids	December 15, 2009	PSCA Conference Room/ 2:00 p.m.

3. The Philippine State College of Agriculture reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids ANY BID may be withheld seven without furnishing reasons to the aggrieved bidder or bidders.

Atty. Eva A. Villacorta, R-Pandacan Brgy. 4, Legislative Jr. Philippine Navy
Chairman, BAC
Office of the Bids, Secretariat
Tel. 929-8888/929-8889

(Sgd.) Engr. Antonio L. Alvez
Chairman, BAC

(PSA-November 24, 2009)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Compound, 3 Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 929-8987; 929-8874

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of Agriculture invites qualified bidders to participate in the bidding of the following items:

ITEM NO.	QUANTITY	UNIT	PARTICULARS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	BIDDER'S FEE
1	10	units	Extended Bodied Nine Boatmaker Fiberglass Reinforced Composite with 11' LOA Monitor and GPS Marine, 250hp	1,100,000.00	1,200.00
2	4	units	Extended Bodied Nine Class Jet Printer	17,600.00	170.00
3	1	unit	Extended Bodied Nine #3 Outboard Printer	18,000.00	180.00
4	3	units	Nine-One Printer (Print, Copy, Fax, Scan)	66,000.00	660.00
5	1	unit	Extended Bodied Nine Mobile Projector	40,000.00	400.00
6	1	unit	Extended Bodied Nine ITC Laptop Computer 12"	100,000.00	1,000.00
7	10	units	Extended Bodied Nine ITC Laptop Computer 14"	900,000.00	9,000.00

Bid documents shall be available at the BFAR Property Section starting **November 25, 2009** upon payment of the non-refundable bidder's fee.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **December 7, 2009 at 9:00 am.**

Eligibility documents, technical and financial proposal in three envelopes, one original and two copies must be submitted at the BFAR conference room 3rd Fl. PC Bldg., Elliptical rd., Diliman Quezon City not later than **10:00 am** on **December 21, 2009** and shall be opened on the same time and date in the presence of the participating bidders.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at tel. 459-0338.

This office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the BAC is the most advantageous to the government. The BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that award will be made.

(Sgd.) DR. A. ARDINA, DEBS IV
Officer in Charge

(PA, Nov. 24, 2009)

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Lira Raul O. Marcelo • Associate Editor Carrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

Acer P1166P Projector Picture perfect Value

RP races to secure rice supply for 2010

With 4th tender, gov't hopes to head off impending hike in prices

THE PHILIPPINES COULD IMPORT AS MUCH AS 3 MILlion tons of rice next year as the world's largest buyer of the grain, unnerved about a potential spike in prices, moves quickly to secure supplies.

The government's call for a fourth import tender would bring in a total 2.68 million tons of milled rice until May—already above the 1.8 million tons assured for the whole of 2009 and near the record 2.3 million tons bought in 2008.

The government has already scheduled three tenders for next month happening a week apart.

"We're trying to take advantage of lower prices because we foresee that, maybe next year, especially if India will come in, prices will really go up," Leodegario Jarlan, deputy administrator at National Food Authority (NFA), told reporters.

"It may not be as high as in 2008, but it's definitely going up."

BY MARIA RE

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CURRENCIES

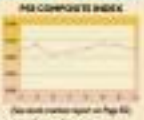
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ = $1

₱ = $1

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.68 percent lower as investors took profit-taking after recent gains, dealers said.

The composite index shed 20.72 points to close at 3,048. The all-shares index shed 0.88 percent, or 11.40 points, at 1,302.50.

A total of 2.29 billion shares worth P2.82 billion ($60.38 million) were traded.

Decliners led advancers 93 to 46, while 63 issues closed unchanged.

The market would likely see an upward bias on Tuesday, said Emmanuel Dolor at Equity Word Securities.

"It has room to advance as investors try to re-align their portfolios," Dolor told Dow Jones Newswires. AEP

Benchmark T-bill dips to 3.794%

By Roland W. Dennigo

THE BENCHMARK 91-DAY TREASURY BILL broke shed 3 basis points to an average of 3.794 percent as investors were for shorter term issues.

Investors on the 182-day bills also were down by 4.7 basis points while that for the 364-day issue were up by 4 basis points.

Sold on the six-month debt paper averages 4.09 percent while that of the year-long issue is at 5.499 percent.

National Treasurer Roberto R. Tan said yesterday's rates were very competitive and the changes were "stalemate" or insignificant.

Investors may have been favoring short-term issues because of the government's fiscal situation, Tan said.

As the 10 months to October, the government spent P366.1 billion over its budget—more than the target limit of P350 billion for the full year.

"Maybe they want to be able to get into higher or they prefer (the three-month or six-month T-bill over the 12-month issue)," Tan said.

Still, the finance undersecretary noted that the volume of yesterday's tender was "very meaningful."

Investors yesterday tendered a total of P71.54 billion, or more than twice the total offer of P36.3 billion.

Buyers tendered a total of P6.24 billion or more than four times the Bureau of the Treasury's offer of P1 billion for the 91-day T-bill.

They also tendered a total of P8.41 billion, or more than four times the P2 billion offer for the 182-day bill.

Also, lenders pitched a total of P4.89 billion, or more than the P3.3 billion worth of 364-day bills on offer.

Tan said the BTr revised the issue of the previously scheduled 10-year Treasury bond for auction on Dec. 1 to 25 years.

Tan said this was mainly to accommodate demand for long-term T-bonds among pension funds and insurance firms.

The last T-bond offering for the year, slated on Dec. 7, is also supposed to raise P6.5 billion.

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Of optimal and speculative trading

IN MY RIDE REVIEW ON THE winning game of Team Me, who managed to remain on top of the leaderboard of the virtual trading contest until last Friday, were two significant points on successful trading that has to be reemphasized. First is the subject of what an optimal trade consists of. Second is on the aspect of when even seasoned investors may not possibly get away with when trading with speculative stocks.

Optimum trading does necessarily refer to the usually skewed logic of stock trading, which is to buy at the lowest price and to sell at the highest to end up earning with the biggest win. However, it is not about winning in every trade. It's about combining and executing various trades involving carefully selected stocks at varying amounts of risk exposure that would yield when to called positive expectancy.

In other words, it's a trading method that keeps possible losses to a minimum that investment capital is not materially put at risk when a trade goes wrong. On the other hand, winning are realized to their fullest when a trade turns out right. The basic principle of which is much like the idea of winning even about four or less out of 10 trades and managing to manage a winner to the end.

MARKET RIDER

Dex Saavedra

Week 24 at the virtual game

Trader28 noticeably traded very actively last week. She was, as usual, decisive. She recalled her trading orders several times before opening bell. She appears under pressure, reflective of what all the virtual players are possibly now experiencing, as the contest comes near to its climax on Dec. 8.

Her trading orders that were not straightforward were voided. As explained in the past, dual or ambiguous pricing orders that put the brokers in remote discretionability and discretion which prior to execute is not allowed in actual trading unless explicitly accepted.

During the week, Trust Me, The Oracle and QB Trader did trade five-timing trade entries, too.

One big problem (see table and journal below) that may put Trust Me out of the running

MARKET RIDER, B4

NOTICE OF TENDER OFFER TO SHAREHOLDERS OF MABUHAY VINYL CORPORATION

Please be informed that on November 20, 2009, **Totoh Corporation** (the "Bidder") filed a Tender Offer Statement (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. The Bidder, which is a chemical company incorporated and established under Japanese laws, offers to acquire 221,279,721 common shares or 53.15% of the total outstanding shares of **Mabuhay Vinyl Corporation** ("MVC") owned by stockholders (the "Stockholders") other than Totoh Corporation and Banco de Oro Unibank, Inc., at a price of ONE PESO (P1.00) per share.

Stockholders may tender all or a portion of their MVC common shares ("MVC Shares") for acceptance and purchase by the Bidder subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, beginning at 9:00 a.m. of November 25, 2009 until 12:00 noon of December 10, 2009 (the "Tender Offer Period"). The Tender Offer Period will not be extended.

The Tender Offer shall proceed whether or not the transaction, described in the said SEC Form 19-1 on which basis the Tender Offer is made, proceeds.

Only MVC Shares validly tendered by shareholders of record of MVC shall be accepted for payment by the Bidder. **Only MVC shares tendered in scripless form shall be accepted**. Duly shareholders who wish to tender their MVC Shares should go to their brokers (the "Participating Brokers") to have their MVC Shares lodged with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation and duly tendered by the Participating Brokers. Please note that lodgment takes at least five (5) trading days. The applicable lodgment fees shall be for the account of tendering stockholders.

All tendered MVC Shares must be free from any claims, liens, encumbrances or restrictions, whether or not valid. The consideration for tendered shares shall be paid to the tendering shareholders' Participating Broker, within ten (10) business days after the termination of the Tender Offer Period. Within the same ten-day period, Participating Brokers will be informed of the acceptance or rejection of tenders made by said Participating Brokers. Tendering shareholders with accepted tenders must make arrangements with their Participating Brokers regarding the payment for their MVC Shares.

Tendering shareholders shall have the right to withdraw during the Tender Offer Period any MVC Shares tendered, unless such MVC shares have been previously accepted for payment by the Bidder. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be timely received by the Participating Brokers who received such notice of withdrawal must notify the Bidder through the Depository. DBP Securities Corporation of such withdrawal in writing, indicating the number shares subject of the withdrawal, prior to the end of the Tender Offer Period. All expenses incurred by the Depository and/or the Participating Brokers in respect of the withdrawal of any MVC Shares shall be for the account of the shareholder making the withdrawal.

Tendering shareholders whose tenders were rejected, or who withdrew their tenders in accordance with the Terms of the Tender Offer, must make arrangements with their Participating Brokers regarding the withdrawal of their securities. The Depository will return all securities covered by rejected and/or withdrawn tenders within ten (10) business days from the end of the Tender Offer Period.

PSTC fee, SCCP fee, PSE fee, selling brokers' commission with value added taxes, stock transaction tax, lodgment fees, cost of issuance of new stock certificates and/or settlement fees (if any), on the sell side of the transaction, shall be for the account of the tendering stockholders.

The Bidder's bank in the Philippines has confirmed receipt and deposit from the Bidder of funds intended for the Tender Offer. These funds are sufficient to satisfy full acceptance of all tenders under the Tender Offer.

Copies of the Terms of the Tender Offer as well as SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by MVC stockholders from the offices of any of the following: (i) Participating Brokers, (ii) the Depository (DBP Securities Corporation), (iii) MVC. The Bidder has also requested the Philippine Stock Exchange to post the appropriate forms on its website at http://www.pse.com.ph. You may consult your broker/legal advisor/ financial advisor, or direct inquiries or requests for clarification on the Tender Offer process to:

The Depository
DBP Securities Corporation
Attention: Ms. Amarissa E. Garcia at (632) 845-4700 and / or
Mr. Lester Ong at (632) 845-7041 and Ms. Lawryn Deza at (632) 845-5280

Market Rider

Waterfront seeks P2B in fresh financing

From page B2

...n has found an speculative stock Prime Gaming Philippines Inc. (PGPI). He has been unsuccessful so far in attempts to dispose of his PGPI shares. Early transactions are irregular and starting to disappoint. It's interesting to see how he gets out of this twisted and unusual story in the coming.

But are line spin

To recapitulate, spiritual trading is definitely not about winning all your trading plays or earning the most out of your trade each time but managing to win on the overall. Those that follow the logic of winning each trade and wanting to earn the most in each trade never learn how to trade well or hardly remain market winners.

Much can be the ultimate of the sentiment. You may have heard what "trade at your best and use trade to be the best" means.

The overall performance standing and portfolio management of all stock players for week 24 (Nov. 16-20, 2009) will see print in my next article on Tuesday, Dec. 1. However, the stock players can reconcile their personal records with the copy of the report on every trading results for November, which is to be released by the paper this coming weekend.

[illegible] may reach the Market Rider at [illegible] or [illegible] Announcement has saved

By Doris C. Dumlao

WATERFRONT PHILIPPINES Inc., the holding firm for the Cuisinhaven hotel, resorts and casino businesses, is seeking up to P2 billion in fresh credit to settle debts owed to Philippine National Bank and to Insert funds for the upgrading of its hotel chain.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, WPI said its shareholders approved in an annual meeting the conversion of up to US$8 million of its advances to Waterfront Cebu City Casino Hotel Inc. into common shares of this subsidiary at par value.

Stockholders also authorized WPI to apply for loans or credit accommodations from any banking, financial, investment or leasing institution or entity willing to act as principal, co-lender, syndicate participant, pledgee, assignee, or guarantor for the restructuring or refinancing of the PNB loan.

Part of the loan proceeds will be used for the renovation and upgrading of Waterfront hotels in Cebu City, Marivera City, Davao City and Manila.

WPI has about P1.6 billion in loans payable as of end-September, records showed.

PNB earlier threatened to seize the two Plaza Hotels in Cebu and Bird Sandcastle properties at the Lapu Lapu Regional Trial Court. WPI avoided the foreclosure with the help of a third party.

On Feb. 19, Grace Prime Holdings Inc. executed a deed of assignment with PNB, with the conformity of WPI. Under this, Grace agreed to pay PHP6.49 million to acquire all the rights, interests and participation of the bank in the settlement agreement as well as in the extrajudicial foreclosure proceedings initiated.

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Mixed views on RP's position on USTR watch list

Sunwest awaits approval of hydro projects

By Jerry E. Barrios

SUNWEST WATER AND ELECTRIC CO. INC. (Sunwest) is awaiting the approval of its renewable energy service contract applications for 20 hydropower projects in Luzon and Visayas, according to data from the Department of Energy.

DOE documents showed that of the 20 proposed hydropower projects, 15 would have a combined capacity of about 53 MW. The capacities of the remaining five projects have yet to be disclosed.

Although Sunwest did not indicate its possible investments in these projects, it may have to spend as much as $119 million.

This is based on the general rule that a company needs to invest at least $2 million to produce a megawatt of hydropower.

Sunwest's proposals are currently being evaluated by the DOE.

Under a renewable energy service contract, companies are given two years to conduct pre-development work.

Sunwest is set to ask to spend P5.1 billion for three run-of-river mini-hydropower projects, with combined capacity of 8.4 MW, in Catanduanes.

The Bulong mini-hydro plant would cost about P404 million to build and would have a capacity of 2.3 MW.

The Bikona 01 hydro plant would need P242 million in investments to generate 1.5 MW, while the Cagtalon hydro facility would cost P450.7 million for a capacity of 2.5 MW.

Sunwest's Bulong and Bikona 01 mini-hydropower plants are expected to begin operations by March 2010, to be followed by the Cagtalon facility in March 2011.

Waterfront ...

From page B1

After a month, Cuco agreed to defer six tax liens against PPI in exchange for the following:

- a pledge on the Corinthians' investment in shares of stock representing 90 percent of the outstanding shares of stock of Waterfront Marian Casino Hotel Inc. and 10 percent of Waterfront Cebu City Hotel;
- assignment of leasehold rights over the parcel of land where Waterfront in Cebu and Marian are; and
- chattel mortgage of the furniture, fixtures and equipment of the two flagship hotels in Cebu in favor of Cuco.

The PNB loan originally represents a $30-million long-term debt acquired by the Waterfront group in 1997 to partly finance the construction of the Cebu City hotel. The loan underwent several restructuring resulting in the conversion of the loan's currency from US dollars to pesos—at the time that the peso was devalued during the onset of the Asian currency crisis.

RP races ...

From page B1

Thailand's benchmark 100 percent B white rice stands at $565 a ton, up from $520 in mid-October shortly after Manila announced its first tender for 2010.

The grade nearly trebled to around $1,080 in April 2008, driven by a series of Philippine tenders coinciding with poor harvests.

India, the world's second largest producer and normally a major exporter as well, has issued small tenders after its rice crop fell below consumption because of the worst monsoon in nearly 40 years.

"I think many were expecting (the Philippines) to buy between 2.2-2.4 million tons of rice for 2010, but maybe the pace of buying is a little bit surprising," said a Thai rice exporter based in Bangkok.

The agency's Dec. 15 tender for 800,000 tons of rice would be its last this year, although total purchases for 2009 could hit 3 million tons, an NFA official said.

"That's the worst case scenario, you'll never know if harvests may be damaged again, and there's also El Niño," said NFA spokesperson Ilen Estoperez.

The Philippines, which lost the equivalent of around $15,000 tons of milled rice when storms hit four rice-growing areas in the main Luzon island from late September, has options for purchases thanks to high rice stocks in producing countries.

Thailand has proposed selling the Philippines a fulfilment rate of this rush year for the next three years.

"I think that is good for the Philippine because, in a way, you're being guaranteed that any time you need it, you have supply," Jarien said.

Thailand has plans to release state-held rice stocks equivalent to 6 million tons of milled rice by selling around 950,000 tons through government-to-government deals with countries including the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and India.

The Philippines has a similar three-year deal with Vietnam, which has committed to supply 1.5 million tons annually from 2008. Reuters

US group wants RP on 'priority' list

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PUBLISHERS HAS BEFORE noon today to prove to the US Trade Representative that it had made significant enough headway in intellectual property rights protection to merit exclusion from the Special 301 "priority" watch list.

Groups wanting to keep the Philippines out of the USTR 2011 watch list, and even those that want to elevate the country to the "priority" watch list, have until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, shortly before noon in Manila, to air their views on the matter.

Long before the deadline, however, various IP-related groups had already raised their case, with the Philippines getting mixed reviews.

In a statement submitted to the US TR, Michael Schlesinger of the International Intellectual Property Alliance recommended that the Philippines be placed on the Special 301 "priority" watch list—a tie reserved for US trading partners deemed having inadequate IP rights protection or enforcement.

"While there are some indications of incremental positive change, piracy remains dominant in the market, and it is too early to view the situation in the Philippines as having improved significantly since 2009's February 2009 Special 301 report," he said in the IPR statement.

He noted that of the group's 14 proposed enforcement and legislative-related priority actions, little headway had been made.

Among the proposed actions were the facilitation of search warrant issuance for IP violators, capacity-building for the judiciary and the establishment of IP courts, and permission for rights holders to take part in investigations.

The group also sought the passage of legislation to curb Internet piracy and prevent camcording in movie theaters, the amendment of the Copyright Law, the issuance of rules in just a step to book piracy, and a stop to the importation of licenses to new optical disc plants.

In the country's defense, the Intellectual Property Association of the Philippines said IP prosecution success could not be touched overnight. This did not mean, however, that the country was not doing anything to protect the IP of its trading partners.

"Although there are still problems being experienced [with] respect to IPR enforcement/protection in the Philippines, serious efforts are being made to address the problems," the group, composed of local patent lawyers, said in its comment submitted to the USTR.

The USTR would take these comments into consideration in formulating its final decision on the Philippines, as part of its review on the country.

When the USTR released its Special 301 watch list in late April, the Philippines managed to stay out of the "priority" watch list and keep its position on the "ordinary" watch list.

But certain sources that the US government had on the local IP environment prompted the new review.

The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines has yet to submit its position paper to the USTR, but it is expected to do so before today's deadline.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ECC OF MINDORO NICKEL

Over the past few days, the integrity of the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) of the Mindoro Nickel Project has been unfairly questioned.

To set the record straight, here are the true facts:

- Mindoro Nickel has complied with all the requirements of law when it applied for an ECC.
- The ECC – which certifies that Mindoro Nickel will not cause significant or negative environmental impact – is the culmination of extensive environmental baseline and social scanning studies undertaken in the island of Mindoro over a two-year period that began in September 2007.
- In pursuit of its ECC, Mindoro Nickel also conducted extensive consultations with local stakeholders which included an Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-mandated public scoping on October 20, 2008 in the impact barangay of Villa Cerveza in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro), a public hearing mandated by the EMB on May 14, 2009 (in the municipality of Pola, Oriental Mindoro where the plant is being proposed to be located) and a public consultation on May 27, 2009 (in Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro for feedback for stakeholders in this province).
- In all public consultations, every effort was undertaken to advise all stakeholders to present their concerns and position papers. Mass media vehicles – such as national and local newspapers for press releases, print ads, local radio announcements, postings in public places such as barangay and municipal halls, and notices delivered via registered mail – were utilized.
- Additional consultations were conducted through focus group discussions.
- During these consultations, stakeholders were informed of the results of the environmental baseline studies, and encouraged to give feedback on their issues and concerns.
- At the public scoping in Victoria and the public hearing in Pola, stakeholders were able to submit their position papers. Unfortunately provincial officials of the Province of Oriental Mindoro and Alyansa Laban sa Mina (ALAMIN) chose to disrupt these two major public consultations after they submitted their position papers to the EMB. The disruption of the public hearing is documented on video, a copy of which was furnished the EMB and is available on request.

Additional Facts

- The vast majority of Mangyans who live in and own the tenement area support Mindoro Nickel. A Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process was conducted with the Mangyans residing in the tenement area, the result of which was a Memorandum of Agreement that has been validated by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).
- As defined by law and rules and regulations, Mindoro Nickel is not located in a proclaimed watershed.
- Actual operations for Mindoro Nickel are expected sometime in 2012. Yet this early, Mindoro Nickel is already actively supporting social initiatives that benefit many Mindoreños. These include water supply systems that have provided as many as 12,000 Mindoreños access to safe drinking water, a reforestation program where over 100,000 seedlings have been outplanted, elementary textbooks for 10,500 Grade 1 students under the acclaimed Bright Minds Reading Program, and free health care facilities for Mangyans and residents in the impact barangay of Victoria, Oriental Mindoro.
- Mindoro Nickel will provide employment for as many as 8,000 during construction and 2,000 full-time employees during actual mining operations. More significantly, Mindoro Nickel will be producing 175,000 metric tons of ferronickel annually, which will provide a boon to Mindoro's agricultural sector.

Mindoro Nickel adheres to strict ethical guidelines and will continue to address environmental concerns as they arise.

We are confident that the continuous dialogue with environmental authorities will ensure that all emerging issues will be handled responsibly and expeditiously.

INTEX RESOURCES PHILIPPINES, INC.

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BUSINESS

NDC to float ₱3.5B in bonds

Funds for irrigation projects

By Abigail L. Ho

MANDAUE, CEBU—The National Development Corp., the investment arm of the Department of Trade and Industry, will issue on Wednesday P3.5 billion worth of April-Apr (A6) bonds to fund the repair and rehabilitation of various irrigation facilities nationwide.

In a statement issued yesterday, NDC said the bond proceeds would help restore about 33,000 hectares of rice lands all over the country, as well as handicraft the repair and rehabilitation of 38,000 hectares, NDC added.

These projects would be spearheaded by the National Irrigation Administration.

The NDC's A6 Bonds carry a "direct and unconditional" government guarantee.

Those will have a minimum tenor of five years, with interest payments to be made semi-annually. Interest earned from these bonds will be tax-exempt.

According to the NDC, the A6 Bonds can serve as liquidity for government deposits, as well as security for the bank's performance of trust duties.

The bond issue also serves as alternative compliance to Presidential Decree 717, or the directive titled "Providing an Agrarian Reform Credit and Financing System for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries through Banking Institutions."

Institutional investors can subscribe to the issuance at the second tranche of the 6A Bonds floated in 2005, which are maturing next month.

"The issuance of the long-term bonds is intended to support projects for economic growth under a revitalized rural development program to be funded by NDC," the agency said.

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO TEVES just does not get it.

The good secretary is still defending the questionable $900-million deal between the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Swiss firm Sicpa Product Security SA.

For the past two years, Teves has been pushing the Sicpa's supposedly "foolproof" system of cigarette tax monitoring.

The total cost of the contract, if the BIR decides to go on it, will be P1.9 billion over seven years.

Word persists that Teves had been egging three commissioners to sign the contract. They were former Revenue Commissioners Jose Mario Buñag, Lilian Hefti and Nanie Regalado.

Three from BIR chiefs have resigned, partly because—according to BIR insiders—their bosses at the DOF were forcing the Sicpa contract upon the bureau.

To the resigned commissioners, it seemed that the contract was a done deal—the only surprise was taxes against them before the Ombudsman.

Because of the highly questionable nature of the contract, some congressmen are trying to block it. In fact, they are calling for a congressional investigation of the Department of Finance's role in it.

Not why is the DOF insisting that the BIR go into what congressmen believe to be a lopsided contract?

And how did Teves respond to the congressmen? Well, he said—no, really, he "resigned" (according to press statements attributed to the DOF) the congressmen—that the deal was not yet final.

In short, it is not a done deal. Well, at least, not yet! Meaning?

Not a down deal?

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bernal III

Does Teves in my barangay, we have a term for such a pathetic attempt of the good secretary to squirm his department out of the controversy—pulusot.

* * *

IS IT? is not yet a done deal, its what?

The fact remains that the DOF even tried to sell us down the river by pushing for the deal—with all its infirmities and lopsided arrangements—with the BIR, even with the strong objections of the three commissioners.

The real question in this: How could such a bad deal even be under consideration of this core administration in the first place?

As I have been saying, the contract smelled of unpurchasers. The Swiss company had a capital of P54 million. Total revenue from the contract was estimated to reach P1.9 billion in seven years. Damn how much Sicpa would make out of the deal. Right...an untold fortune!

Not only that, this core administration should've tipped Sicpa to make one necessary so that it could make that kind of fortune.

Under the scheme, you see, Sicpa would need P2 billion initially to implement its "foolproof" system.

And where did Sicpa propose to get the money? Well, since it only has P54 million to capital, its only recourse would be to borrow money. And where on earth would it get funding of P2 billion, which is more than 37 times its capital? Nowhere in the world!

What would happen in the financiers, for instance, if the scheme failed?

Bummer...this must again...in Business, Sicpa proposed that the government would extend to Sicpa some sort of guarantee.

It would work this way. The government would deposit in escrow a lot of money—although the actual amount is still not known. Sicpa then would draw from the government deposit the equivalent sum of two million of Sicpa's supposedly "foolproof" security stamps.

In other words, whether or not Sicpa sees the stamps, this core administration would make the future administrations committed to pay for them—and in advance, at that!

That was one of the main reasons why the Swiss initially dumped the scheme, in the first place. Such an arrangement was against the law, particularly the BOT Law.

But all of a sudden, Swiss made a complete 'aw' turnabout and gave its unqualified support to the DOF-BIR joint negotiations with Sicpa.

As the DOF's alibi, Teves pointed out that the BIR and Sicpa were still negotiating the terms of the contract.

To the guys down here in my barangay, if somebody tries to take away their money, they simply slam the door on him. That is the only way of ordinary taxpayers like us in my barangay. They do things differently up there in this core administration.

* * *

BY THE way, if and when Congress conducts an investigation of the Sicpa affair, certain lawmakers are interested in just one thing. What were the real reasons why all those three revenue commissioners resigned?

SGI to shut down plastic injection business

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE UM DABLY HOLDING FIRM, SOLID Group Inc., is shutting down its unprofitable plastic injection manufacturing business in Batangas, Mindanao before the end of this year.

"SGI expects that the closure of its unprofitable plastic injection business, which has been incurring operating losses for the last three years, will positively impact on the overall operating performance of the group," company spokesperson Josephine Santiago of the Philippine Stock Exchange announced.

The business is undertaken by SGI wholly-owned subsidiary Solid Laguna Corp.

"The concerns of employees and staff who may be affected by the closure have been addressed by management in accordance with existing laws and company policies," Santiago said.

The 19-year-old Solid Laguna manufactures injected plastic parts and components for the electronics industry and other industrial manufacturing companies. It also offers allied services such as spray painting, silk-screening, hot-stamping and mold repair.

It operates on a 18,496-square meter industrial facility at 2280 Gen. Luna Avenue Road, South Luzon Expressway, Biclatan. It has 15 injection molding machines with capacities ranging from 50 to 650 tons.

SGI's businesses include the operation of a broadband cable infrastructure; development and sale of real estate properties; sale of broadcast/professional equipment and accessories; operation of repair and service centers for audio and video consumer electronics equipment; video equipment distribution, financing, warehousing and logistics services.

As of end-2008, SGI had 12 other wholly-owned subsidiaries such as Solid Broadband Corp., Solid Electronics Corp., Solid Multi-Corp., Solid Manila Corp., Solid Manila Pioneer, Inc., Cotabato Logistics Corp., Solid Corp., Alta Corp., Brilliant Beach Ltd., Zen Towers Corp., Perena Corp., and Solid Group Technologies Corp.

Keppel Marine Q3 profit down 20% to ₱197M

LISTED SHIPBUILDER KEPPEL MARINE Philippines Inc. expects its operations to remain slow until the end of the year due to low demand for its services locally and still uncertain from bigger shipyards overseas.

Keppel Marine is the Philippine unit of Singapore-based Keppel Corp., which is one of the biggest shipbuilding companies in the world.

"Based on the present market conditions, the ship repair business will continue to be slack," the company said in the disclosure.

The company said its revenue fell by nearly half or P627.5 million for the third quarter due mainly to lower earnings from the fabrication activities at the company's Batangas shipyard.

Keppel Marine was also forced to close its Cebu shipyard due to low demand for its services.

"In view of the current market conditions, there is no plan to resume operations of the Keppel Cebu Shipyard by the foreseeable future," the company said.

The company's operating profit also slipped by 20.2 percent to P112.2 million due to lower sales revenue. The company, however, benefited from a weaker local currency in the period, which resulting in higher peso earnings from its dollar revenues.

That led to an increase in interest and other income to P48 million from P30.3 million in the third quarter last year.

Keppel Marine Philippines is a subsidiary of Singaporean shipping firm, Keppel Corp. Ltd.

Paolo G. Montecillo

Energy body awards wholesale aggregator license to APC unit

By Amy R. Remo

THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION has allowed a subsidiary of Aboitiz Power Corp. to provide electricity to Philippine Economic Zone Authority-registered areas in the country, as soon as the government implements open access and retail competition.

According to ADC, AdventEnergy Inc. was awarded a wholesale aggregator license yesterday, allowing the company to become the first Peza-registered retail power supplier.

"The license allows us to serve customers in Peza-registered zones when open access is permitted. Peza customers are different, because of the way they are taxed. They will have less issues to deal with if they are supplied by a provider that is also Peza-registered," said Luis Miguel Aboitiz, APC SVP for trading and marketing.

Under open access, large electricity users can choose their power suppliers.

But before this can be implemented, the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 has however, mandated that the requirements be met, including the establishment and commercial operation of the wholesale electricity spot market, the approval of unbundled transmission and distribution wheeling charges, the implementation of the retail competition and open access rules and the transfer of all of Napocor's generating assets, contracts with independent power producers (IPP) administrators (IPPAs).

The government is pursuing the selection of IPPAs as it seeks to meet the requirement of privatizing 70 percent of the generation under the IPP contracts.

In the meantime, APC also disclosed that EDC had renewed the Retail Electricity Supplier (RES) license of AboitizEnergy Solutions Inc. (AESI). This allows AESI to sell, broker, market or aggregate electricity to end-users in all economic zones in the country.

FLI raises ₱5B from bond offering

THE GOTIANUNS' RESIDENtial property development arm, Filinvest Land Inc., has raised P5 billion from a recent retail offering of three-year and five-year bonds.

FLI announced yesterday that it had issued P5000 million worth of three-year bonds with a fixed interest rate of 7.3250 percent and P1.5 billion in five-year bonds at 8.4615 percent. The bond yields were set at the lower end of the price guidance based on bids from qualified institutional investors and underwriters.

Underwriters also exercised the P2 billion oversubscription option to take advantage of strong demand for the issue, which was three times oversubscribed. This brought the total issuance to P8 billion.

The bonds are scheduled to be listed to the Hotel Income exchange or the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEx) to allow trading of the instruments in the secondary market.

The joint lead managers and underwriters for the bonds were BDO Capital & Investment Corp., BPI Capital Corp. and First Metro Investment Corp. Co-lead underwriters were China Banking Corp. and HSBC Capital Corp.

Proceeds from the issue will be used for the development of various mixed-housing projects under FLI's socialized, affordable and middle-income segments. Also to be funded are various mid-rise residential building projects in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao, as well as the acquisition of land for future projects.

Debt watcher Philippine Rating Services Corp. (Philrating) has assigned the highest rating of PRS Aaa to FLI's peso bonds. Issues rated PRS Aaa are deemed "of the highest quality with minimal credit risk." Also, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is viewed as "extremely strong."

RC bottling firm puts up ₱1-B plant in Davao

MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVE Corp., the licensed bottler of RC Cola in the country, has just up a new bottling plant in Mindanao worth P1 billion.

This, according to the company, is aimed at ensuring the supply of RC Cola specifically in Davao and General Santos.

ADC executive vice president and COO Gerardo Garcia said the company had established a team of the new bottling plant in Davao City to capture a wider range of consumers.

Garcia said the prices of soft drinks in Mindanao region were higher than the prevailing prices in many parts of the country. "One of the goals is to bring up a plant in the area to be closer to the market we cater to. This way, we would be able to provide thirsty-to-be with a refreshing drink that they can easily afford," he added.

He said there months before ADC's plant was set up in Mindanao, the brands began selling at lower prices, at least at par with current prices in Manila.

MVP group seals crucial Meralco pact with Lopez company

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE Telephone Co. has finalized a deal with First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPH) that will block any outside attempt to take over the country's largest power distributor Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

FPH of the Lopezes, together with companies identified with businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan—PLDT, Philpos Telephone Corp. (Philcat) and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC)—on Monday said they had finalized on Nov. 20 an agreement that would bar the sale of FPH shares in Meralco to parties other than those belonging to the PLDT bloc for three years.

Under the agreement, some shares may be sold to others as long as the sale will not exceed:

+ A total of five million shares during the period January 1 to June 30, 2011;

+ Five million shares from July 1 to Dec. 31, 2011; and,

+ Twenty million from July 1, 2012 until the end of the three-year "standstill" period.

But before any of the shares are sold, the agreement grants FPH the right of first offer to sell the shares to MPIC or Philcat at the same price, under the deal's "right of first refusal" clause.

A "tag along" provision was also included, which would give the PLDT bloc the right to sell its shares to whoever would want to buy the Lopezes' stake.

Should the buyer decline from taking PLDT's offer, the entire deal would have to be junked.

The deal also mandates the Ayalas and Lopez groups to vote as a bloc in making corporate decisions in Meralco.

In exchange for provisions that ensure PLDT's control over Meralco, the agreement states that as long as the Lopez group's stake in the power distributor does not fall below 11 percent, one seat in the 13-member Meralco board will be given to the Lopezes.

Pangilinan earlier defended its bold on Meralco by matching an expensive offer by the son of mall magnate Henry Sy to buy half of the Lopezes' stake in the power firm for P70B a share.

LIFESTYLE Wellness

Peace org to host program on tolerance and non-violence

By Ernnie G. Velarde

AN 11-YEAR-OLD BOY FROM Australia wrote in 1993:

"Greed and corruption disappeared,
there was a healthy start!
Material wealth was shared around,
and crime was sent to go.
Bad drugs and firearms were destroyed,
the unemployed helped the stray.
With my family's help I made a plan,
for all nations to combine
and share cause on as one world.
Soon the G[illegible] head office was mine,
and the boomerang to the world symbol,
our aim is goodness—straight and true,
And our motto: 'Your death, good or bad,
some book, with strength...to you.'"

That poem by Sam Thorne won a writing contest called "My Idea for a Better World." It has since been included in "Visions of a Better World," a book dedicated to the United Nations by one of its Peace Messengers participants, the Brahma Kumaris.

Many other children...and adults, too—from around the world contributed their ideas on the subject to make the book a successful global initiative.

Thirty-three, 14, from the Netherlands, cited a pop song by "In Time to the Movie," Michael Jackson sings (but if you want to change the world), you should start with the one you see in the mirror. Well, that is what I am trying to do and I hope everyone will do this and that people do not think that just by themselves they cannot achieve anything."

Continuing crusade

Sam Thorne and Thin Maw would be grownups now, but for the UN and all its Peace Messengers, the crusade continues.

Two years after the publication of "Visions for a Better World," the UN declared an International Year for Tolerance.

In 1966, the General Assembly invited member countries to observe the International Day for Tolerance on Nov. 16 every year.

On Thursday (Nov. 26), the Brahma Kumaris will host a special program, "Tolerance and Non-Violence," to mark the global celebrations in the Philippines this year.

The turn-fell speakers are Clemencio T. Abalin, president of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation, and Dr. Nirmala Rajani, ISK Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator.

"Non-violence is a very deep philosophy," says Dr. Rajani, a Raja Yoga practitioner for 48 years now. "It encompasses that all life is to be related, and looks for what is good in every action."

She says her talk for next week's program is to shed light on the subject in ways that her listeners will find "meaningful and doable" in daily interactions.

To illustrate, she gives one that, she says, has never failed her: "Respond to situations with a cool head, and to people with a warm heart."

The program will be held 7:0 p.m. at the Circle & Rotunda Auditorium, SGSC Plaza, Ayala Ave., cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati. Call 890-7868 or 0927-280-8365 (Vicky Mendiola).

GARFIELD

A. LIPAK

PUGAD BABOY

DICK TRACY

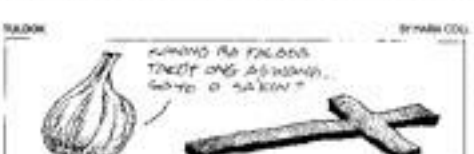
LOVEHKNOTS

JAMES BOND

ERVINE COMEDY

BABY BLUES

TULOOK



BEH

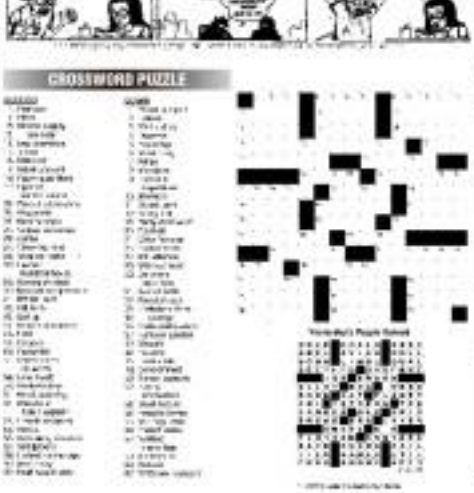
ATOMIC AND WEEDY

KIDO MACHINE

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

7			3				4	
	1	8	7			9		
9							8	
			1		3	5	2	
6							3	
5	1		2		9			
	5						6	
		6		8	1	5		
3					5		1	

Difficulty Level ++

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	6	5	3	2	4	7	1	8
7	8	4	9	6	1	2	3	5
2	3	1	5	8	7	6	9	4
4	5	3	6	9	2	1	4	7
1	9	2	7	4	8	5	6	3
6	4	7	1	5	3	8	2	9
3	2	8	4	3	6	9	7	1
4	1	9	2	7	5	3	8	6
5	7	6	8	1	9	4	5	2

Limits of scientific method

The scientific method was never intended to explain nonphysical reality, and, indeed, it cannot

INNER AWAKENING

Jaime T. Licauco

THE 9000 PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN THE Western world, look at the manner of reality which is based almost solely on what science regards as real, has long been in need of some rethinking, if not revision.

I want to make it clear at the outset. However, that I am not against science and I'm not embarking here on the scientific method, with which I have no quarrel. I do not think that we can improve on the methodology of science as far as validating physical reality is concerned. It is already perfect and one can add nothing more to it.

It has proven its value or effectiveness for centuries. Were it not for science, people would probably still be living in caves and dying at the age of 30.

However Western orthodox science has ignored a great deal of other realities and human experiences because it is based on the following unproved assumptions:

1. Our knowledge of the material world is derived only from our physical senses.

2. All qualitative properties can be reduced to quantitative ones.

3. There is a clear distinction between the objective world and subjective experiences.

4. The mind cannot exert any influence on the physical world.

5. What we call consciousness or awareness is only a secondary phenomenon or result of physical biochemical process.

6. We can only know the present moment and cannot foretell future events, except that which can be predicted from known causes and past knowledge.

7. Individual consciousness does not survive death. Therefore spirits or so-called ghosts do not and cannot exist in reality.

The above assumptions underlying the scientific method have become the only accepted means by which reality of something is validated and accepted by scientists. Everything else outside of these is imaginary or devoid of objective and independent existence.

The main problem with mainstream scientific method is that its assumptions are true or relevant only as it pertains to physical reality. It does not include the nonphysical world. That is its main limitation.

Most other scientists try to apply the scientific experimental method to things other than the physical, they get into trouble in trying to explain them rationally. It is like a child who jumps from a tall building using an umbrella as parachute. He falls to the ground dead. Why? He was using the wrong instrument or tool outside of what it was intended for.

Similarly, when scientists try to explain the totally here and now of Filipino faith healers, for example, can walk on extremely hot coals of molten lava nudes, sit for long, drawn, four weeks and three feet deep, without being burned, they get into some logical quandary.

It has been explained by scientists that the reason the natives are not hurt is because they have developed very strong sweat glands that get activated when they step into molten lava, thereby cooling it. Or they may have developed "very thick soles" on their feet. These explanations, no matter how ridiculous, are accepted by scientists, rather than acknowledging that these locals may have activated an influence on their physical body that makes it immune to burns.

According to Dr. Willis Harman, president, until his death, of the Institute of Noetic Sciences in Sausalito, California, in his very important book "Global Mind Change, The New Age Revolution in the Way We Think," "It would be futile to spend time on explanations of beliefs and expectations that the person accepts as true of the world he or she lives in.

It does not have to be logically consistent, indeed, it probably never is. It may be contradictory and, consequently, logically unsatisfying beliefs which typically do not seem to be noticed or to cause discomfort at the same times. The person unconsciously wards off evidence that might reveal such inner contradictions."

What is an appropriate methodology to test truth or aspects of reality according to him, may not be applicable in another level. The scientific method was never intended to explain nonphysical reality, and, indeed, it cannot. And when applied to nonphysical subjective reality, the scientific experimental method flounders or breaks down.

As certain physicists have discovered to their initial shock, there is probably not even such a thing as objective reality on a quantum or sub-atomic levels. There are only subjective constructs.

The immutable laws of Newtonian physics, which work so well on the macro-level, simply do not apply in the micro or subatomic levels. What seems to apply there, despite strong objections from mainstream scientists, is consciousness. As the great English physicist Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington said, "The stuff of the universe is mind-stuff."

Another modern physicist, Dr. Fritjof Capra, pointed out in his best-selling book "The Tao of Physics," "The discoveries of modern physics necessitated profound changes of concepts like space, time, matter, object, cause and effect, and none these concepts are as basic to our way of experiencing the world as it is our strong ideal the physicists who were forced to change them felt something of a shock."

To state therefore to applying only the objective experimental scientific methods to copy to subjective, personal experiences, is to miss a great portion of what consciousness really as a whole.

The next Inner Mind Development seminar will be held Nov. 28-29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at SOS 308 Prince (Near 1 Cont'l., 306 Legaspi St., Greenhill, Makati. Call 8197247 or 813-6866; e-mail jaimelicauco@yahoo.com.

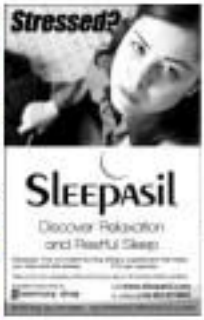
Big savings and great value with Jollibee Spaghetti and Yum Value Meals now for only P50!

Make your spending count during these trying times with Jollibee's special price-off on your favorite Yum and Spaghetti value meals!

From November 1 to 30, you can delight in the kanghap-sarap goodness of the Jollibee Yum Value Meal and the Jollibee Spaghetti Value Meal for only P50 each from its original price of P57. The price-off promo gives you big savings and great value so you can save your hard-earned peso especially during these challenging times. With the lower prices, Jollibee gives back to its loyal customers who no longer have to scrimp on food as they can continue to enjoy their favorite Jollibee treats!

Burger lovers can delight in the Jollibee Yum that's made with 100% pure beef patty and is served with Jollibee's own special dressing all in a soft bun. Fans of Jollibee Spaghetti can continue to savor this flavorful treat with chunky slices of ham, sausages, generous amount of ground beef that are served over premium noodles and topped with lots of cheese. The Yum Value Meal comes with regular Jolly Crispy Fries and regular softdrink, while the Spaghetti Value Meal comes with a regular softdrink.

So dash to your nearest Jollibee store now and load up on the affordable and value-packed Jollibee Yum and Spaghetti Value Meals for more jolly moments with family and friends. This special price-off offer is valid in all Jollibee stores nationwide.



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Bankers volunteer for nature and less fortunate kids

By Margie C. Enriquez
Correspondent

COMPANIES ARE DANGLING incentives to their employees that go beyond the pocket. As exploratory as destinations for some more ordinary and mundane work can seem unique and broadening experiences, they are responding by promoting and helping to organize activities combined with corporate social responsibility.

HSBC's bankers are lucky to have a the most popular among the programs in this global bank. Although the bankers pay for their airfare and life for a maximum leave, the company takes care of the accommodations, transfers and meals.

This program gives them access to new destinations and, in a modern way, aims to touch the lives of the locals. It has become a subtle but effective approach in nurturing a commitment to nature. The bankers assist authentic expeditions, but not the formulaic tours. They learn the beautiful sights and local lore, as well as the chance to help the less fortunate. To them, they avoid their time-to-matter.

Catherine Bodino, HSBC's assistant vice president of group communications, says "Volunteers for Nature started seven years ago to expose the employees to the environment preservation programs and, subsequently, community service. The bank supports Corporate Social Responsibility programs for environmental education," she says.

Their initial foray was a trip to Green Island Bay close to Puerto Princesa, Palawan, in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund to view a protected site. The following trip, also a collaboration with WWF, took them to Bicol. The bankers learned how Daniel was able to preserve the endangered whale sharks which are considered the biggest fish in the world.

In Dumaguete, the employees enjoyed whale and dolphin watching.

In the past few years, HSBC has been teaming up with the Children's Environmental Awareness and Action Foundation (CEAAF), wherein volunteers spend a morning with less fortunate children. The CEAAF program includes which teaches children about the country's natural wonders.

The volunteers execute the module through song, dance, miming, drama, arts and craft, and group interaction, in La Loc, Batangas, the volunteers took a day trip to a school by the sea. The Sanang Dagat module imparted how to conserve animals in their environment. In Iloilo, the volunteers visited the SOS Village for abandoned children, then shifted to Isla Gigantes.

"The livelihood is that the kids look forward to meeting the volunteers," says Arellano.

This year, HSBC's Volunteers for Nature went to Cebu and entertained the children of Margen Elementary's mobile school. As with of Mayor Tomas Osmeña, Margen's former chairperson of the Cebu Task Force, which aims to keep students off the street.

Mobile school

In 2004, Osmeña started the mobile school program to service preschool children. Buses would collect them and bring them to a school where they are exposed to arts and crafts, enjoy a feeding program, and learn hygiene and values formation.

Nine out of 10 children end up attending formal education. Reynelle Peters, a beneficiary of the mobile school, now heads the Sangguniang Kabataan and sits in the city council.

"We are the most child-friendly city in the Visayas," director Osmeña. Cebu's First Lady sought the help of Debbie Sterkens Ng HSBC's retail brand head in Cebu, for her mobile school program. The module touched children from and nurse—in this case, the treasures of Cebu's biodiversity.

Positive influence

Jaime Mendejar, manager for debt capital markets, 34, has joined Silver Volunteers for Nature programs. He says that as volunteers touch the kids, they are also learning. He observes that in the past, visiting the beach was about appreciating its beauty. With the environmental awareness acquired in the program, it's been more sensitive of how the ecosystem could be changed or damaged if not controlled.

He adds, "We're here to make art with the kids and not just talk about nature. It's not something

HSBC managers who organized the Cebu trip—Debbie Rodico Ds, recruitment head in Cebu with Johanna Garcia, senior vice president and head for group communications and Catherine Bodino, assistant vice president for group communications

YOUNG HSBC employees interact with a preschool children at Margen Osmeña's mobile school in the eco-themed art activity

MARIOT Osmeña has partnered with HSBC Cebu in her civic works.

where we drive to some town and clean up; we're stakeholders in investing a part of ourselves."

Osmeña Later was always interested in eco-conservation and environmental work. The young and teller of HSBC Cebu was one of the lucky representatives sent by the company to join the two-week International Climate Champion program in China. It is geared for young people who are concerned about protecting the environment, have the passion to give the message about it, and are dedicated in taking action.

The program also exposed her to more certain office practices can reclaim their environmental work," said HSBC CEO and president Mark Wiedemann has been driving the spirit of volunteerism in its CSR activities.

"You feel that HSBC does care, especially with these CSR activities on nature-and helping the children," a company staff said. "It just give dole-outs. Here we get an opportunity to walk our talk," she says.

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
HP recommends Windows 7.

Depression makes one crave for sweets

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

THERE IS SO MUCH STRESS, frustration about food, nutrition and exercise that most people end up with an overload of theories, beliefs and fallacies. Here are a few.

Vitamins are fattening

False. Vitamins provide the body with nutrients it should otherwise be getting from the food one eats. Does this justify not eating to all? Can vitamins alone provide proper nourishment? No. Vitamins and minerals work with the food you eat, that's why the best time to take them is immediately after a meal. Good health begins with healthy food.

Diets kill

In a sense, that's true. Diets kill one's sense of freedom. And starvation diets can lead to a host of problems from hormonal imbalance, low blood sugar, depression to fatigue. Diets change the food you eat, but never your mindset. So the right diet should begin in the mind. And this should include a power chat can dramatically affect one's outcomes. Diet outcomes including confusion, unnecessary and guilt if you are not sure about your goal. This alone will be the reason why you will never be able to stick to it.

Rule #1: Conquer the mind. Once done, half the battle is over.

Rule #2: It's your style of eating that will make you gain weight or unstress. People eat because they are tired, agitated, happy or stressed. Don't be an emotional eater. This will make you eat or drink without limits. The best time to eat is when you are calm and of course, hungry.

Rule #3: Understand your body signals. Thirst signals aren't necessary enough to drink. Make your body's need for water first drink one glass of water every waking hour without fail. Some people overeat when they are actually only thirsty. So when you feel hunger pangs, drink a full glass of water first for 15 minutes. If your hunger subsides, it means you are only thirsty.

Stress can make one lose weight

False. The contrary is true. Stress-related triggers of cortisol (stress) affects the HPA or hypothalamic-Pituitary Axis. Signals are sent to the gut which causes cravings. When people get this so-called "gut feeling," they try to fill it with food.

Sugar and sweets provide the brain with a chemical high but it's artificial and temporary. The sudden and more depressed you are, the more sweets you'll crave. Eat healthy. Get real fitness and stick to them. Eating on a regular schedule keeps your weight down. The rule is about the size of a clenched fist. A calm mind makes a calm stomach.

If you stop exercising, you will balloon

In a way it's true, if you stop like there is no tomorrow. Actually your body has memory. If you have been exercising regularly you will not become overweight overnight. It will still take some time. That body memory retains the image of the "once fit" you used you are ready to shape it with sheer willpower, "no excuses." Then, the image is replaced. A combination of cardiovascular workouts with resistance training would be the best if you intend to look fit for the rest of your life.

Energize and empower your body, mind and spirit through Ashtanyahara, a unique blending techniques. The art of living workshop by Sudi Hood is on Nov. 26-28 at Makati Shangri-La Hotel, (917) 8464698.

Affects today. "I am looking and feeling good."

Love and light!

Editor Ennie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

MTRCB scolds Willie Revillame... again

RESPONDING TO VIEWERS' COMPLAINTS, THE MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board has again reprimanded "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame — this time for allowing a guy contestant and his apparent boyfriend to kiss on the ABS-CBN noontime game show's Nov. 16 episode. A memo signed by MTRCB chair Marissa Laguardia ordered the show's producers to explain their side. Marinel R. Cruz

Sarah G takes No. 2 & 3 slots

THE TOP-SELLING ALBUMS IN THE Philippines for the week Nov. 9-15, based on Odyssey Music & Video store chain's nationwide sales reports:

Overall

1) "Summer Revisited: The Love Songs of Jose Mari Chan (Exclusive Mega One Edition)," Christian Bautista, Universal Records; 2) "Your Christmas Girl," Sarah Geronimo, Viva Records; 3) "Made in Me," Sarah Geronimo, Viva Records; 4) "Dance Na Nga," Willie Revillame, Star Records; 5) "Rendition of the Soul," Nina, Warner Music; 6) "This Is It," Michael Jackson, Sony Music; 7) "Feel Right Days: Piero Mozo Soundtrack," Various Artists, Warner Music; 8) "Playlist," Freestyle, Viva Records; 9) "Miss Bulan Fe (Telenovye Soundtrack)," Various Artists, Star Records; 10) "The Time Of Our Lives," Miley Cyrus, MCA Music

NINA is at No. 5.

OPM

1) "Summer Revisited: The Love Songs of Jose Mari Chan (Exclusive Mega One Edition)," Christian Bautista, Universal Records; 2) "Your Christmas Girl," Sarah Geronimo, Viva Records; 3) "Made in Me," Sarah Geronimo, Viva Records; 4) "Dance Na Nga," Willie Revillame, Star Records; 5) "Rendition of the Soul," Nina, Warner Music; 6) "Playlist," Freestyle, Viva Records; 7) "Miss Bulan Fe (Telenovye Soundtrack)," Various Artists, Star Records; 8) "Pa 1," Glenda Abrenica & Gary

SARAH G's

odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO

Battle of the heavyweights

By Amy Means
Contributor

KYSH Ybiera, brother of Arjo and Jason

"IT'S NOT EXPLOITATION; IT'S INSPIRATIONAL."

This is the motto of the Asian edition of the US hit reality show "The Biggest Loser," which held a launch/preview Wednesday to announce its premiere tonight at 8 on the Hallmark channel.

The show first made headlines locally last August, drawing nearly a thousand overweight Filipinos to its open auditions at a popular mall in Muntinlupa.

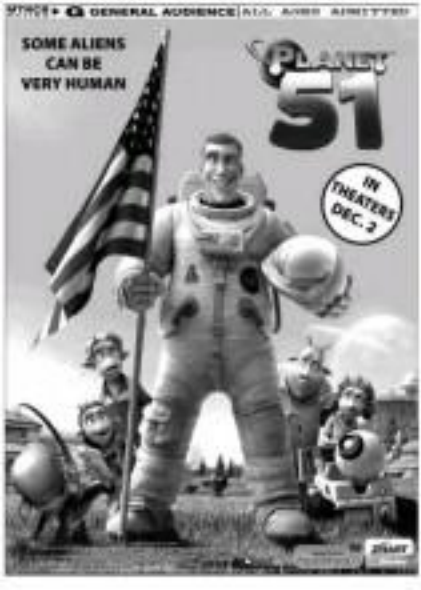
A few celebrities tried out—including actors Bailey Rodriguez and Ryan Yllana, brother of Arjo and Jennylyn; and Dunkin Donuts franchise manager Tina Monzon-Palma, who's also a judge on the show—but only 16 contestants were chosen to live in a specially designed house in Tagaytay City and undergo a rigorous fitness and diet regimen.

Among the 16 are Kysh Ybiera, brother of Arjo and Jason; Jeffrey Quizon, a 24-year-old call center agent who weighs 330 pounds; and Jeanette Ong, a 40-year-old mother of two who tips the scales at 220 pounds.

Hosting the country manager Mark Zilla, one of the judges in the audition, said the judges focused on the candidates' "level of obesity, relative fitness — we have to make sure they can survive the physical challenges we'll be giving them; personality and an inspiring story that they can tell the audience."

"The Biggest Loser" franchise started in the United States and grew to include editions in 25 countries, including the UK, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands and Australia. The Asian edition is the second pan-regional edition of the show, next to the Middle East edition. It has 16 contestants from several Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Indonesia.

Reel Team resident trainer Ailing Lorrie noted that food was the main sticking point for the



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PODIUM

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VALENZUELA — CITY BULACAN — CITY SAN PABLO

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CITY TARLAC — CITY LIPA — CITY LUCENA

CITY CLARK — CITY BAGUIO — CITY NAGA

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CITY CEBU — CITY CEBU — CITY CEBU

CAGAYAN DE ORO — CITY DAVAO — CITY DAVAO

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

Battle . . .

» From page D1

Filipina contestants, who are now locked up in their seventh week of taping and training at a base camp in Malaysia, Filipino.

"They don't like spicy food, so we had to make the food bland for them," she said. She also noted, with amusement, that one Filipina had trouble understanding the English language. "At first, I wasn't sure she understood all my instructions but I think we got used to each other eventually," Carrie is thankful.

Some of the Miss contestants also caused concern, as they trained on working our hills-climbed, and as traditional head waiters. "They told us they were used to working that way, as we let them," noted Carrie.

Ret. Miss Universe runner Hilaneyan Dawn Mejia, the Filipina eventual avoid our be being happy. "My impression is that a there's a song and a dance inside every Filipina. They're strong, they're determined and they work very hard — they're laid back and they like to have a laugh, but when it comes to work, they work," he noted. "I think there are some very standout contestants in the show that come from the Philippines. Some names come to mind, but of course, I can't tell you about them yet."

Krista has 'deleted' me

From page D4

Eliminated" Sisterhood, hosted by Dyan Castillejo and Glaiza Herbosa hogged the Hall of Fame award for Best Sports Program at the 2009 Catholic Mass Media Awards.

For Dyan and Marc, the product is active life and their office is outdoors. When it comes to action and adventure, the students and their mentors are the standard.

The show thrives on many "firsts": Marc was the first ever man pilot in the country to ride an Alpha fighter jet. They were the first to reach the peak of the highest mountains in Southeast Asia — Mt. Kinabalu and Mt. Pulag — and to settle in the caverns of Mt. Pinatubo. Their team was the first to attempt a simultaneous canyoneering and jet ski, from Laoag to Batanes; and motocross in Dyan and Marc herd the call of the wild rehash, for them, is at an the edge of sleep!

E-mail: annemighalsbalmoga@yahoo.com

RILEY Cyrus

Sarah G...

From page D1

Mancinas, Universal Records; 8) "Claim You in Our Hearts," Jose Mari Chan, Universal Records; 10) "Fearless, Maximizing Industrial Pros, Gary C. Squires," Various Artists, Star Records

US Top 10 singles

The best-selling music in the United States, including digital downloads, in their appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine:

1) "Empire State Of Mind," Jay-Z + Alicia Keys, Roc Nation; 2) "Fireflies," Owl City, Universal Republic; 3) "Obstacle 1," Interpol, Matador; 4) "Replay," Iyaz, Reprise; 5) "Hard To Say Stay," Lady Antebellum, Capitol Nashville; 6) "21," Adele, XL; 7) "Down," Jay Sean feat. Lil Wayne, Universal Republic; 8) "Party in the USA," Miley Cyrus, Hollywood; 9) "Paparazzi," Lady Gaga, Interscope; 10) "TiK ToK," Ke$ha, RCA/Jive. AP

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GALLERIA

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	6 2012
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	7 Inglourious BASTERDS
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	8 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	9 2012
5 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	10 2012

EMIRITA

1 2012 / TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	5 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	6 2012
	7 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

METRO EAST

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	5 2012
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	6 2012
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	7 2012
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	8 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

NOVALICHES — PIONEER

NOVALICHES	PIONEER
1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	1 2012
2 2012	2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 ANG TANGING PAMILYA	3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

STA. ROSA — LIPA

STA. ROSA	LIPA
1 2012	1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA	2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	3 2012
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

DASMARIÑAS — IMUS

DASMARIÑAS	IMUS
1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	1 ANG TANGING PAMILYA
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA	2 2012
3 2012	3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 THE CAMBERS	4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

STARMILLS

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	4 2012
2 ANG TANGING PAMILYA	5 2012
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON / 2012

ANGELES — TACLOBAN

ANGELES	TACLOBAN
1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 ANG TANGING PAMILYA	3 2012
4 2012	

BACOLOD — ILOILO

BACOLOD	ILOILO
1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 2012	4 2012
5 2012	5 2012
6 ANG TANGING PAMILYA	6 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

GEN. SANTOS (NOW OPEN!)

1 2012	3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

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MOVIEWORLD

Krista has 'deleted' me

RYAN AGONCILLO'S manager friend Boots wants to set the record straight: "Ryan and Judy's 'Georgie & Gigil' ruin till January long songs," he says. "It will give way to Judy's new telenovel. It has nothing to do with Ryan's joining 'Fun Budays'

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly-Anne Carvajal

coming."

That makes Ryan channel-friendly, since he has shows on Channels 2, 7 and 53.

Ryan's, for Aunty?

Bloom's first

Given Robin Padilla's modelling, effortlessly cool demeanor, no other image model can more effortlessly deliver the message of

ing Jeans. Going with an appeal and natural magnetism, Robin has good looks that exude energy, yet classy, machismo. It is Bloom's first apparel endorsement.

During my Bloom dangerous with Bloom, he gave me many of his jackets, including the fatigue one that had a very sentimental value for him. Hmm... could I make birthing and for a pair of jeans, for old times sake? Happy birthday, Bloom! Thanks for the threesome memories.

No cameras, please

Hayden Kho has opened a restaurant in Quezon City. We have it on good authority that there are no hidden cameras in the premises. The only "Sex!" Hayden takes there days is confined to the kitchen. What's KHOking, dude?

Past is past

Big-nalaper Princess would rather put her ears. Hayden Kho episode behind her. "Next time I should be more careful. I trust easy, look and then believe I pump," she says." I'll focus on my career now and promote my newest Christmas album. Barang-barako na ko ng manager ko (laughs)." Princess is in no hurry to find her prince.

Bleep

Krista Bonillo debout me and other media censors from her Facebook account. If she has nothing to hide, why is she cutting the cable the press? Stars should not burn their bridges 'cause the people they count on their way up are the same people they will meet on their way down.

Mellowing

Sir Boy Mobido has quit drinking. Message sent to his pending fatherhood seems to have made him mellow. No to sorpe runs, or sober the wine. Instead, crane the wine!

Connection

Me Pe and I could not stop cooing Mari Taylor during the taping of our show, "Step, Talk & Listen" (daily on Cignal TV's Viva Cinema Channel). Internet RAH artist Young Jr. dropped by to visit his Ballet. So she visited her at the gym.

When Young Jr. was a guest in our show, he and Mari had instant physical attraction. Would anybody mind?

Best covers

A group of seasoned musicians plus all-time love covers make each night at Conways Bay Makati Shangri-La worth the trip this November. Garth Side & Mondays, 2nd Avenue, Thursdays, 14-way 54, Wednesdays, Spirit of '67, Thursdays, Version 4.0, Fridays, and Rockin Revival, Saturdays. Shows start at 8:30 pm.

Hall of Fame

ABS-CBN's "Sports